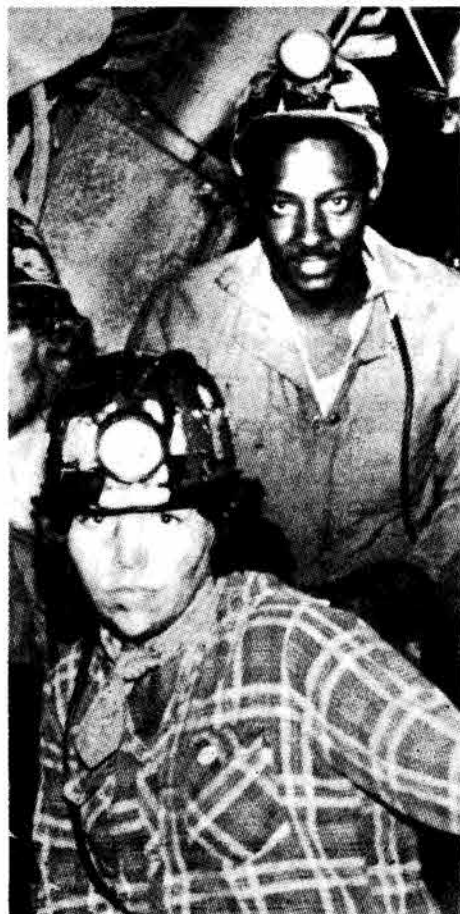


Women win big victory over job segregation



Supreme Court ruling expanded affirmative action for both women and Blacks.

BY NORTON SANDLER

Women and Black workers have won another big victory in breaking down barriers to full equality on the job. On March 25 the Supreme Court significantly expanded affirmative action rights, in a ruling that strengthens the whole labor movement.

The court said an employer may promote women or Blacks to "remedy an imbalance in traditionally segregated job categories," even if whites or males have higher test scores. This is the first time the court has explicitly stated that women can be promoted over men in such situations.

The 6-to-3 ruling also said employers can use affirmative action programs to bring their work force into line with the composition of a particular area's population, even in cases where past discrimination has not been proven.

Opponents of affirmative action and the labor movement — including spokespeople for the Reagan administration — condemned the decision.

The decision involved the case of Diane Joyce. She went to work at the Santa Clara, California, Department of Transportation in 1970. Joyce worked as an office clerk for five years. In 1975 she became the first woman in the department to get a job on a road maintenance crew.

Joyce was one of 12 workers who applied for a road dispatcher's job when it came open in 1979. She was one of nine

applicants who scored high enough on tests to qualify for the job.

Fearing that her application might not be considered seriously, Joyce contacted the county affirmative action office. Her fear was well grounded. Out of 238 skilled jobs in the department, not one was held by a woman at that time.

Joyce eventually got the job after the affirmative action office intervened on her behalf.

This was immediately challenged in federal court by a male coworker, Paul Johnson, who had scored slightly higher on the promotion test.

The Supreme Court rejected Johnson's challenge. In doing so, the court expands on the 1979 decision in the case of Brian Weber, a steelworker who was white. Claiming "reverse discrimination," Weber had challenged an affirmative action program the Steelworkers union had negotiated with Kaiser Aluminum. The court upheld the program but left unclear whether it applied to women as well as Blacks.

The new ruling arms women and Black workers to press further in their fight for jobs in coal mines, rail yards, oil refineries, and other workplaces.

"This case will have an impact on all women, and I'm very happy for them," said Joyce. "We needed it. Affirmative action is not just words on paper — they mean getting the job."

Nebraska meat-packers fight for dignity

BY ESTELLE DeBATES
AND MIESA PATTERSON

DAKOTA CITY, Neb. — Meat-packers at the Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) plant here have been forced on strike five times in the last 16 years.

The latest round in the battle to defend their union began in December 1986, when IBP locked out 2,800 members of United Food and Commercial Workers union Local 222 after they rejected a concession contract.

The meat-packers voted to strike March 15 after the company announced it was going to reopen the plant and impose concessions worse than those rejected earlier by the union.

The March 22 *Omaha World Herald* said, "Nothing in recent U.S. labor history may compare with the repeated prolonged labor disputes at IBP's massive meat-packing plant."

Figures show that at IBP's Dakota City plant the average strike since 1969 lasted eight months.

Union members who stayed out of the plant throughout the five disputes have missed nearly three years of work fighting to defend their jobs and working conditions.

1969 strike

The IBP plant originally opened in 1966. Workers unionized in 1968 in response to horrible working conditions.

Within a year they were forced on a seven-month strike. IBP brought in busloads of strikebreakers. Company provocations resulted in cop attacks on the strikers. IBP then dug a four-foot-deep trench around the plant, saying it was necessary for "security."

The union was forced on strike again in 1973. This time the company settled without trying to reopen the plant.

A 14-month strike began in early 1977. Ten months into the strike, IBP reopened

Continued on Page 3

How Pentagon cops spy in factories

BY FRED FELDMAN

Does the government have the right to spy and maintain files on millions of unionists who work in plants that have Pentagon contracts? Does it have the right to use these files to engineer the firing of workers whose political views or personal lives it disapproves of?

An important test of this issue is taking place now in a federal court in New York City, where lawyers representing the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance seek an injunction that would bar government agencies from using millions of pages of files on the socialists illegally obtained by the FBI.

Subscription drive opens

BY MALIK MIAH

The official kickoff of our spring subscription campaign begins March 27. If the initial response from supporters around the country is an indicator, prospects are good that the long-term and introductory paid subscription base of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* will significantly increase.

According to Jim White, *Militant* business manager, several hundred new subscriptions have already reached our office. They began to pour in soon after supporters learned of the spring drive. They include more than 50 renewals to *PM*.

These early subscriptions, including renewals, will count toward the national goal. As we reported two issues ago, the national target will be based on local goals taken by supporters around the country, plus sales by 10 or more national sales teams.

The main objective of the drive is to

Continued on Page 4

Government lawyers — backed by affidavits from officials of 11 government agencies — have demanded that the FBI be permitted unrestricted power to use the files as it sees fit.

The current confrontation stems from a ruling last August by federal Judge Thomas Griesa that the FBI's 40-year campaign of spying, disruption, and harassment of the SWP was unconstitutional. He proposed further hearings to consider the scope of an injunction restricting the use of the millions of pages of files built up by these illegal methods.

One of the agencies that submitted affidavits opposing an injunction was the Pentagon's Defense Investigative Service (DIS). It's a good bet that few workers have ever heard of the DIS.

DIS Director Thomas O'Brien stated in his affidavit that his agency conducts "Personnel Security Investigations" on "federal civilian employees" and on "industrial personnel who require access to classified information." He said the DIS uses the FBI spy files in investigating the following:

"Membership in, or affiliation or sympathetic association with, any foreign or domestic organization, association, movement, group or combination of persons which is totalitarian, Fascist, Communist, or subversive, or which has adopted, or shows a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny other persons their rights under the Constitution of the United States, or which seeks to alter the form of government of the United States by unconstitutional means."

The DIS keeps tabs on more than 15 million workers — most of them in more than 21,000 plants that have Pentagon contracts.

In Columbus, Ohio, the DIS maintains a huge computer in its Defense Industrial Security Clearance Office (DISCO). This computer contains information on the personal history, union activity, and political

views or affiliations of literally millions of American workers.

Other criteria, besides political opinions, used to deny security clearances include "deliberate misrepresentations, falsifications or omissions of material facts from a personnel security questionnaire"; any "dishonest conduct"; any "sexual per-

Continued on Page 7

'Contras' bomb tower in Managua

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A loud boom and shards of flying glass shattered Virginia Herrera Ramos' sleep at 3:40 a.m. March 16.

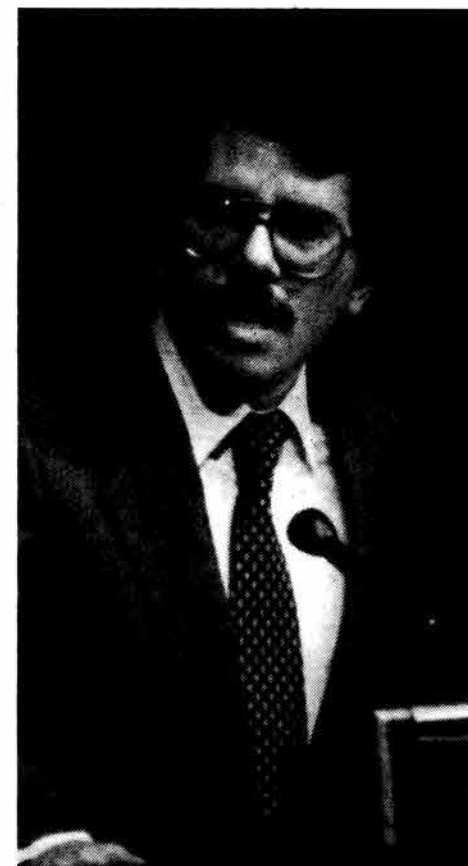
A few yards from the elderly woman's wooden shack, two bombs seriously damaged a tower holding high tension electric power lines. The bombs failed to bring down the pylon or interrupt the flow of electricity, but the explosion knocked down the walls of some of the neighboring houses, which are built mostly of wooden boards and zinc sheets.

Still visibly shaken, Virginia Herrera told the *Militant* the next day how her religious figures and glass ornaments were all shattered, while she herself was almost killed by a bed frame flung across the room by the force of the explosion. If the tower had fallen, it could have landed on her house, she pointed out.

Herrera lives in the Domitila Lugo neighborhood, in one of Managua's main industrial zones. It was only with the Sandinista revolution that electricity and running water were brought to the neighborhood. The majority of the 5,800 residents are workers, some of them employed in nearby factories.

In a March 16 protest letter to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the Nicaraguan

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Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said bombing was "set up by CIA."

Speakers, route set for D.C. march

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

NEW YORK — "Our responsibility is to organize the kind of mobilization this moment in history demands of us," Leslie Cagan told a March 16 meeting here. Cagan is national staff coordinator for the April 25 Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa.

She emphasized that a big effort is needed throughout the New York area to get out the word on the April 25 action so that everyone who might conceivably go to Washington, D.C., that day knows about the demonstration.

She reported on plans for the action itself. March participants will begin assembling at 9:00 a.m. on April 25 at the Ellipse behind the White House. Three stages will be constructed for a variety of entertainment. Toward the end of the morning a premarch rally will be held.

Participants will then march from the Ellipse past the White House to the west steps of the Capitol. Confirmed speakers include Jesse Jackson, National Organization for Women President Eleanor Smeal, Detroit Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, and others. Cagan said that several unionists will be added to the list along with speakers from Central America and southern Africa.

Attorney C. Vernon Mason, a leader of the fight against racist violence in New York, has also been invited to speak.

Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of District 65 of the United Auto Workers and one of the co-chairs of the New York



John Cole
UAW's Cleveland Robinson

mobilization committee, also addressed the March 16 meeting.

"We've got our work cut out for us. Nothing happens by chance. Things have to be organized and there is a lot of work to do," Robinson said.

Over 100 buses have been chartered by union locals in the city.

On April 3 the Labor Outreach Committee will be hosting a rally at Hospital Employees Local 1199 union hall.

Auto union locals discuss war

BY ANDREW PULLEY

DETROIT — Representatives of the local antiwar coalition have recently been invited to speak to 10 different United Auto Workers (UAW) locals in this area.

Coalition spokespeople are using the 5 to 10 minute presentations to detail what Nicaragua's workers and farmers have accomplished since toppling the Somoza regime in 1979 and to explain why it is in the interest of working

people to fight against Washington's attempt to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

They have been urging auto workers to be part of the turnout at both the March 29 "Stop U.S. intervention in Central America" demonstration in Detroit and the April 25 march in Washington.

Some UAW locals have endorsed the actions as a result of the presentations.

Under a front-page banner headline reading "March 29 rally to protest policy in Central America," the Detroit AFL-CIO's *Detroit Labor News* urges its readers to join the demonstration.

Tom Turner, president of the Detroit Metro AFL-CIO council, is a featured speaker at the March 29 rally. Other speakers include Yolanda Campbell from the Nicaraguan Autonomy Commission, Susan Mnumzana of the African National Congress' Women's Section, and actor Ed Asner.

Boston activists charter train

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — Thousands of Boston-area residents will be marching in Washington on April 25.

A 15-car Amtrak train is nearly filled. The United Auto Workers and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers union have bought blocks of tickets for an entire car.

Twenty buses have been chartered from here so far. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and hospital workers, hotel workers, and steelworkers' unions are among the unions that have se-

cured buses.

At the General Electric plant in Lynn, antiwar unionists have begun signing up their coworkers for the buses.

Campus building for the April 25 protest is also widespread. Students have initiated an April 11 protest in Boston against U.S. policy in Central America and apartheid in South Africa. That action will be a stepping-stone to mobilizing campus participation in the Washington action.

A March 7 meeting of the local coalition drew 95 activists. Since then thousands of leaflets in English and Spanish have been distributed throughout the city. A Chinese version of the leaflet is being produced.

Local coalitions have been initiated in western Massachusetts and in the city of Worcester. The Central Labor Council in Fall River, an industrial city in the southeastern part of the state, has endorsed the demonstration.

In Maine, activists are filling buses as well. Local 6 of the Marine and Shipbuilders union at the Bath Iron Works has endorsed the demonstration.

ANC and Sandinista youth to tour

BY ANDREW WALDEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At the United States Student Association's Legislative Conference here, 40 students attended a workshop on an upcoming "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua" tour.

Featuring leaders from the Youth Section of the African National Congress and from the National Union of Nicaraguan Stu-



Button put out to build April 25. Order from The National Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa, 712 G St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. Cost of these 2-inch buttons is \$1 each.

dents, the tour will begin March 21 in the Mid-Atlantic states.

Kevin Moeketsi Qhoboshiane of the ANC Youth Section told the workshop, "the main objective of the tour is to help the American people understand U.S. government policies" in southern Africa and Central America.

Four hundred student-government leaders from campuses across the country attended the March 13-16 legislative conference.

A variety of topics were addressed in workshops and speeches including the Reagan administration's proposed budget cuts, censorship, book burning, academic freedom, racism and sexism on campus, the farm crisis, affirmative action, and AIDS.

Matthew Countryman, coordinator of student outreach for April 25, spoke on the third day urging participants to build the Washington and San Francisco demonstrations.

Dallas high school students eager to hear socialist

BY DOUG MITCHELL

DALLAS — "Are you going to other schools — can we come along?"

"Do you need campaign workers?"

These were some of the questions raised during a lively discussion between the students at Government and Law Magnet High School and Roni Lerouge, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Dallas.

Lerouge is also a member of the Young Socialist Alliance. One of the main goals of her campaign has been to reach out to young people like herself, to discuss struggles of working people around the world and here in the United States. Central to this is urging unionists and students to participate in the national antiwar demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco on April 25.

The meeting at this high school was organized when Lerouge's fellow members of the International Association of Machinists were discussing the socialist campaign at work. One worker then raised the campaign with her daughter, who secured the speaking invitation to her high school.

Seventy-five students participated in the discussion and afterward flooded the socialist literature table that had been set up. One young woman especially wanted information on the Dallas coalition meetings to build April 25. Many signed up to help with the campaign and learn more about the YSA.

Inspired by this, the Dallas YSA campaign committee sent out a letter to all area high schools and college campuses saying that Lerouge is available to speak.



Socialist candidate Roni Lerouge explaining her campaign to students

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The *Militant* is written in the interests of workers and farmers. Every week it tells the truth about the war Washington and the employers are waging against working people at home and abroad. We provide first-hand coverage of important struggles in other countries, such as Angola, Haiti, and the Philippines. In addition, regular on-the-scene reports come from our Nicaragua Bureau.

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The Militant

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Cudahy meat-packers reject efforts to sow racial divisions

BY SANDI SHERMAN

CUDAHY, Wis. — Striking members of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local P-40 will host a march and rally here April 12.

The 850 meat-packers have been on strike since early January after refusing to accept a substantial wage cut and changes in work rules. The unionists are hoping that the rally will begin to focus national attention on their battle with Patrick Cudahy, Inc. Jesse Jackson will be a featured speaker.

The company now claims to have 700 "replacement workers" in the plant. Cudahy is taking advantage of high unemployment in the Milwaukee area in its attempt to break the strike.

The local media has tried to portray the strike as a "white versus Black issue" since many of the replacement workers are Black.

In a recent meeting between Local P-40 members and a tenants' rights organization, activist Anne Wilson said, "This type of coverage is designed to put people against each other. On TV, every time you see the picket line, there's white workers picketing, and everyone shown crossing the line is a Black person."

Lula Ward, P-40's corresponding secretary, told the same meeting, "They're trying to make it a racial issue. We have

Blacks walking the picket line and whites crossing it, too. Race is not the issue. We don't think anybody should have to work under those conditions, and we'll stay out and fight as long as we have to."

The housing organization, many of whose members are Black, agreed to distribute information about the strike and urge people not to cross the Cudahy picket line. In return, Local P-40 members pledged to fight against financial cuts in programs that affect the poor.

In other developments, UFCW meat-packers from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, delivered three semis full of food to the P-40 union hall March 21. The strikers have had to rent a warehouse to store food since recent donations exceed the capacity of the union hall.

A delegation that included 10 meat-packers fighting to get their jobs back at the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota, and members of the Austin United Support Group walked P-40's picket lines, visited the union hall, and helped unload the semis full of food during a visit here.

P-40 member Eleanor Claybourne told a television reporter that the outside support was "great," since all meat-packers face common problems and need to fight together.

For more information on the April 12 rally, call UFCW Local P-40 at (414) 744-3034.



Militant/Sandi Sherman

Picket at Cudahy plant. Strikers are planning April 12 support march and rally.

Nebraska fight for dignity

Continued from front page

the plant with scabs. Strikers tried to block the main entrance the day the plant was opened. Two weeks later some 300 strikers stopped traffic outside the plant.

The four-month 1982 strike is well remembered because of the company's brutal attack on workers defending their union. After Local 222 members turned down a wage freeze, the company tried to reopen the plant. Nebraska state cops in riot gear used tear gas to drive back union members blocking the plant gates. A little later the Nebraska National Guard was sent in to keep the plant open. The unionists were eventually forced to return to their jobs without a contract.

A contract was signed eight months later, in June 1983. This agreement reduced wages of experienced workers in slaughtering and processing by \$1.07 an hour.

Brutal chain speed

Between 1981 and 1986, chain speed on the slaughtering floor increased from 225 head of cattle an hour to 275. The speed-up has led to a drastic increase in injuries.

Figures released by the UFCW say one out of three workers in the plant was injured in 1985. Many suffer from carpal tunnel syndrome, an injury caused by repetitive motions, such as cutting with heavy knives. Carpal tunnel syndrome can lead to crippling of the hands and wrists.

Local 222 member Bonnie Geisinger told the press, "I've been in IBP for 15 years, and every year the injuries get worse and worse."

IBP's final offer

In late 1986, when it was contract time again, IBP demanded a wage freeze and then imposed a lockout. The company used the period of the lockout to remodel part of the plant. It then made the union a "final offer." This time, IBP demanded an across-the-board wage cut, driving down pay rates to \$7.60 an hour in slaughtering and \$7.45 an hour in processing.

Prior to the 1982 strike, slaughtering workers made \$9.27 an hour, and processing workers were paid \$8.97 an hour.

Union members overwhelmingly rejected IBP's final offer and voted to strike.

Nonunion plants

IBP has 13 plants. Two are organized by the Teamsters union. Except for the Dakota

City plant, the rest are nonunion. The UFCW is attempting to organize those plants.

IBP shows film footage of the 1982 Dakota City strike to workers in its other plants as a way of trying to keep them from joining the union.

Currently, IBP has some 400 scabs working in the struck plant. Most are management personnel brought in from the company's other facilities. The company is opening up job recruitment centers in Fremont, Nebraska; Cedar Rapids and Des Moines, Iowa; and St. Louis, Missouri.

More than 25 area union officials and farm activists met in nearby Sioux City, Iowa, March 23. The meeting discussed the attacks on meat-packers and the growing farm crisis. In addition to laying the groundwork for a lobbying effort directed at local Democratic and Republican party politicians, the meeting began a discussion on organizing a food caravan for the IBP strikers.

Meanwhile, John Morrell & Co. has begun to advertise for scabs to break the strike at its Sioux City, Iowa, plant. UFCW Local 1142 members went on strike at Morrell on March 9.

Estelle DeBates and Miesa Patterson are members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers union Local 2471 in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

New Pathfinder bookstore is welcomed in Omaha

BY ANDREA BARON

OMAHA, Neb. — A rally and dinner in late February celebrated the grand opening of a Pathfinder bookstore here.

A branch of the Socialist Workers Party and a chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance were formed in this city five months earlier.

Bob Langemeier spoke at the rally, welcoming the socialists to Omaha. In 1986, Langemeier was fired from the Hormel meat-packing plant in Fremont, Nebraska, for honoring pickets set up there by striking Austin, Minnesota, meat-packers.

"It's important for you to be here in the Midwest to get out the *Militant* and tell workers the truth about apartheid, and Nicaragua and El Salvador," Langemeier said, "so they can correlate this with what's happening to workers here."

He described the current stage of his fight to regain his job at the Fremont plant.

Rowena Moore, president of the Omaha Malcolm X Memorial Foundation, also spoke. Moore explained that she had worked as a meat-packer for 20 years.

In 1942, Moore participated in a fight to force the Armour packing plant in Omaha to hire Blacks. "The union forced the company to hire two of us," she explained. "The union was fighting democratically — for Black and white."

"If it hadn't been for the packinghouse workers' union being as strong as it was, I couldn't be doing what I'm doing today. I'm very glad to hear someone from the meat-packers' fight here tonight, and I want you to know I support you," Moore explained.

Malcolm X's birthplace

The Malcolm X foundation has been fighting to maintain the land where Malcolm X's birthplace once stood and to es-

tablish a historical park to commemorate his life and work.

Moore explained the importance of getting out information about Malcolm's life and giving people the opportunity to read his works. "I'm very glad you have the books here, and I will encourage people to come here," she said.

Malcolm X foundation member Terrance Allen participated in the recent Great Peace March. He explained that demonstrations like that one "help awaken the American people and let the White House know that we want to end our government's wars and its support for apartheid."

Miesa Patterson of the Political Rights Defense Fund explained the latest stage in the SWP and YSA's lawsuit against illegal government spying and disruption.

Mary Moore, a member of the Pledge of Resistance, said, "Listening to all of you, I find I'm drawn not only to Central America, but to the Black struggle, and the farm and labor movements too. These are things I need to know more about."

Moore urged everyone to "get involved and support" the April 25 antiwar demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

Bob Schwarz, director of Pathfinder Bookstore, pointed to the importance of distributing the works of Malcolm X in the city of his birth.

Schwarz also urged everyone to read *Teamster Power* by Farrell Dobbs. That Pathfinder Press book describes the powerful union organizing struggles waged by Teamster truck drivers in Omaha and throughout the Midwest in the late 1930s.

Young Socialist Alliance

April Kimnach, one of five high school and college students who have joined the Omaha YSA since the chapter was organized, was enthusiastically welcomed.

Kimnach, also a member of the citywide Youth for Peace Group, discussed the importance of getting other young people involved in antiwar protests. "I don't think we should sit passively by and watch our future being destroyed," she said. Kimnach encouraged other young people to join the YSA.

Messages of support were received from John Bohlman, assistant state legislative director for the United Transportation Union, and Arlo Hoppe, a farmer from Schuyler, Nebraska.

The final speaker was Diane Shur, chairperson of the Omaha Socialist Workers Party.

Pointing to the struggles by meat-packers in the area, Shur said, "Working people are starting to act, to fight back, and to organize. That's why we're so optimistic about the struggles ahead and so excited to have the SWP and YSA here in Omaha."

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Available at Pathfinder bookstores (directory on p. 12), or from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Include 75 cents for postage and handling.

Report from Los Angeles Active Workers Conference

BY MALIK MIAH

LOS ANGELES — More than 200 workers, students, and other political activists gathered here March 21-22 to attend the Active Workers Conference called by the Socialist Workers Party and

national secretary of the SWP, gave a public talk on "Malcolm X Today." SWP leaders Mac Warren and Pat Grogan gave reports.

The reports and discussions looked at the ongoing meat-packing struggles centered in the Mid-

said, are an essential part of meeting with and talking politics with trade union members at steel mills, garment shops, meat-packing plants, mine portals, and other workplaces.

Nationally, SWP and YSA members are active in 10 industrial unions — in steel, coal, auto, oil, electronics, textile, garment, machinists, rail, and meat-packing. A central objective of plant-gate sales is to strengthen the political presence of the party and YSA at factories organized by these 10 unions.

Grogan called plant-gate sales with this primary objective "fraction-building sales." Members of the SWP active in trade unions are organized in what are called fractions.

In a number of informal discussions I had here, a common question was asked: what is the difference between fraction-building sales and other plant-gate sales?

During the successful fall subscription campaign which netted 11,000 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *PM*, some branches of the SWP increased their overall sales to workers at plant gates.

Most of these sales, however, were not aimed at establishing a long-term political presence of the SWP at the plants. They were good outreach sales — to broaden the readership base of the *Militant* and *PM*.

We hope this spring to build on these advances in general sales to workers at plant gates.



Militant/Nelson Blackstock
Pat Grogan

However, fraction-building sales at plant gates involve more than selling the paper and winning new subscribers.

The primary goal is to expand the national presence of the socialist movement in the coal, oil, meat-packing and other key industrial unions whether supporters of the SWP currently work there or not.

For example, in cities such as Los Angeles or Chicago, we want to organize sales at rail yards where no supporter of the SWP works. The salespeople may be

garment, aerospace, or steel workers.

The sales team will seek to learn about the rail yard, the unions, and what the rail workers are thinking about politically — in general and in their unions. The team's effort will enhance and strengthen the SWP's national political presence in rail. It will complement the political efforts of socialists in that industry and can eventually lead to new members and supporters of the SWP.

This can only be accomplished by carrying out systematic sales at the rail yard — week after week, year-round. How? The team members must be well-prepared by political discussions before the teams are launched. They must have backup sales people in case of shift changes or illness. (That is, teams of four or five instead of two or three.)

Plant-gate sales are not just done by industrial workers. All supporters of the *Militant* and *PM* — students, teachers, professionals, nurses, and others — can and should be tied in.

In Seattle, for example, aerospace workers can sell at a shop organized by electronics workers. YSA members from the university will join them.

Organizing this type of plant-gate sale will take leadership time and attention. It is better to start with a few well-organized sales and build up to 100 percent participation of all *Militant* and *PM* supporters.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

Young Socialist Alliance.

Participants included SWP and YSA members and supporters from San Diego, Portland, Seattle, Phoenix, and the Bay Area in Northern California.

The gathering was one of two conferences taking place that weekend. In New York, 250 people, from nearly a dozen cities, attended an active workers conference.

Over the next two weekends, four more active workers conferences will take place — in Houston, Atlanta, Chicago, and St. Louis. (See ad below.)

The meetings are discussing recent shifts in the U.S. political situation that create new opportunities for working-class political activists.

A public talk by an SWP leader and reports on the political situation and on organizing a revolutionary party are given at each gathering.

In Los Angeles, Jack Barnes,

west, how to strengthen the SWP's work in the coal mining regions and in the United Mine Workers of America, and why making the industrial unions the axis of the SWP's political activity is essential to building a revolutionary workers party.

The meeting discussed the importance of building the April 25 antiwar marches in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., the growing number of young people joining the Young Socialist Alliance, and the opportunities to win thousands of endorsers for the Political Rights Defense Fund.

A central discussion at the Los Angeles meeting was how supporters of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* can significantly increase circulation of these two socialist publications at plant gates.

In her report on organizing the SWP today, Pat Grogan explained the purpose of plant-gate sales for socialists. Plant-gate sales, she

Subscription campaign opens

Continued from front page

build on the success of the fall subscription campaign, which netted 11,000 new subscribers to the *Militant* and *PM*. Our numerical target this spring will take into account the fact that many supporters are involved in Active Workers Conferences during the first two weekends of the drive and that the YSA is holding a national convention over Memorial Day weekend in May.

The kickoff weekend will be followed up with three national sales teams. These regional teams will begin hitting the road March 31.

Two of the three teams will be traveling in the coal mining region of southwest Pennsylvania, southeastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, southern West Virginia, and eastern Kentucky. The third team will focus on sales to meat-packing workers, farmers, and students in the Iowa and Nebraska area.

Future teams will sell in southern Florida, Washington state, Puerto Rico, and the coal mining areas of Alabama, southern Illinois, and Utah and Wyoming.

The Young Socialist Alliance is spearheading the teams and the national sales effort. There are members of the YSA in more than 80 cities.

The subscription campaign will run until June 6. Supporters of the *Militant* and *PM*

are urged to sell subscriptions to everyone they discuss politics with and meet on the job, at union meetings, at plant gates, in working-class communities, on campuses, at political meetings, and at protests such as the upcoming national antiwar marches in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco April 25.

Organizing local and regional sales teams with literature tables, especially on Saturdays, will be a key way to reach out to potential subscribers.

The result of these efforts will be to take another big step forward in building up the *Militant* and *PM* long-term subscription base.

Readers interested in taking a goal for the campaign can clip and mail in the coupon below. The first scoreboard will appear in the *Militant* dated April 10.

☐ I would like to order a bundle of _____ *Militants* and _____ *PMs*.

☐ I would like to take a subscription goal of _____ *Militants* and _____ *PMs*.

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Address _____

City, State _____

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Mail to: Militant Business Office, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Or phone: (212) 929-3486.

Socialists host active workers conferences

The Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance will be hosting active workers conferences in March and April.

Members and friends of the SWP and YSA and supporters of the *Militant* will discuss U.S. and international politics.

Each conference will feature a public talk by an SWP leader and reports on "U.S. Politics: New Openings Emerging for Workers and Farmers"

and "Organizing the Revolutionary Party."

Participants will discuss the SWP and YSA lawsuit against the FBI and Attorney General Meese and the upcoming campaign to increase the circulation of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

For information on the times and locations of the conferences below, contact the SWP and YSA. See directory on page 12.

March 28-29

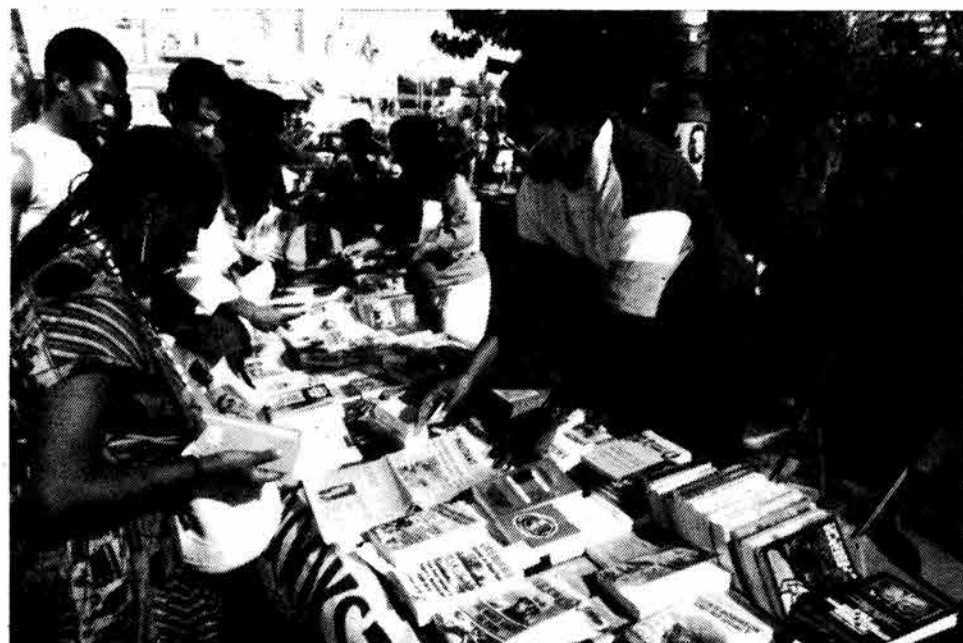
Host city Houston	Host city Atlanta
Participating Austin Baton Rouge Dallas Edmond, Okla. Kansas City Kennedy, Texas Lubbock New Orleans San Antonio	Participating Birmingham Greensboro Low Gap, N.C. Miami Montgomery Morganton, N.C. Tampa Tallahassee Washington, D.C. West Palm Beach

Reports: "U.S. Politics": Mac Warren "Organizing the Party": Joel Britton	Reports: "U.S. Politics": James Harris "Organizing the Party": John Gaige
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April 4-5

Host city Chicago	Host city St. Louis
Participating Austin, Minn. Cleveland Columbus Detroit Hudson, Wis. Madison Milwaukee Oberlin, Ohio Toledo	Participating Ames, Iowa Cedar Falls, Iowa Cincinnati Denver Des Moines Fremont, Neb. Iowa City Lawrence, Kan. Louisville Northfield, Minn. Omaha Twin Cities

Reports: "U.S. Politics": Mac Warren "Organizing the Party": John Gaige	Reports: "U.S. Politics": Craig Gannon "Organizing the Party": Pat Grogan
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Militant/Nelson Blackstock

Malcolm X Today Hear Jack Barnes

National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

Atlanta, Sat., March 28, 8 p.m.
Cabana Hotel
870 Peachtree St. NE
(corner of 7th St.)

Chicago, Sat., April 4, 8 p.m.
Americana-Congress Hotel
520 S. Michigan Ave.
(South Loop area)

The Nonaligned Movement and the Revolution in Southern Africa: An Eyewitness Report

Hear Sam Manuel Reporter for *Militant* and *PM*

Houston, Sat., March 28, 8 p.m.
Holiday Inn Downtown
801 Calhoun St.

St. Louis, Sat., April 4, 8 p.m.
Holiday Inn
2211 Market St. (downtown)

Puerto Rico's fight for independence

Leader of Puerto Rican Socialist Party addresses Nonaligned movement in Guyana

U.S. colonial domination of Puerto Rico was one of the important issues at the March 9-12 Special Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries. The meeting, which took place in Georgetown, Guyana, focused on the economic and political situation in Latin America and the Caribbean. (See March 27 *Militant*.)

After considerable debate, the gathering strongly reaffirmed the Nonaligned movement's longstanding support for Puerto Rican independence. It further declared, "Puerto Rico is an integral part of Latin America and the Caribbean by reason of its historic, cultural, and geographic ties."

The meeting's final communiqué on Latin America and the Caribbean also expressed "concern at reports pertaining to the imprisonment of Puerto Rican patriots in the United States and urged the country to respect the civil rights of all Puerto Rican patriots."

Leading the fight for support to the Puerto Rican independence struggle were members of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), which has had observer status in the Nonaligned movement since 1972.

Below we reprint the speech by Olga Santamaría, head of the PSP delegation, to the final plenary session of the Nonaligned meeting. The translation from Spanish is by the *Militant*.

* * *

Mr. President, ministers, delegates, observers, and guests:

In the name of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and the patriotic people of Puerto Rico I bring warm greetings to the people and government of Guyana, the hosts of this Special Ministerial Meeting on Latin America and the Caribbean sponsored by the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries.

The Guyanese people are loyal champions of the causes of national independence and nonalignment. We are convinced that the president of this gathering will defend the principles of the [Nonaligned] movement and that under his leadership this meeting will adopt strong positions on the most burning questions facing Latin America and the Caribbean.

As Caribbeans and Latin Americans, we Puerto Ricans feel that our presence at this gathering is a reaffirmation of the political, historical, cultural, and geographic ties that bind Puerto Rico to Latin America. Our identification with Latin America is complete despite almost a century of colonial domination by the most powerful empire known to humanity — the United

States of America — and despite the repression we have fought in our battle for independence.

Washington clearly has two political positions with respect to Puerto Rico: to the international community Washington says Puerto Rico isn't a colonial problem because "it's already achieved its own government."

Meanwhile, at home, the U.S. Congress rules unilaterally over the territory of Puerto Rico according to the classic relationship between an imperialist power and its colony. This is expressed by its control over all the vital spheres of our life — such as trade, communications, international relations, customs, emigration, defense, currency, citizenship, mail, and coastal traffic, among others.

Puerto Rico and Namibia

Today, Puerto Rico and Namibia are the two main examples of colonialism that still exist following the tremendous decolonization of the last three decades, which was one of the great achievements of humanity in this century.

Namibia and Puerto Rico represent 90 percent of the men and women who still live under the shameful system of colonialism. For this reason, the international community must pay the greatest attention to both countries, making the most determined effort to eradicate colonialism from this planet before the end of the 20th century.

The case of colonialism in Puerto Rico has been taken up by this organization and by the United Nations Committee on Decolonization for more than 10 years. It is also a topic of much interest for the Permanent Commission of the Political Parties of Latin America (COPPAL). At its last meeting, held in Lima last month, COPPAL reiterated its support for the cause of Puerto Rican independence as an indispensable step toward the real integration of the countries of Latin America and pledged to appear before the Committee on Decolonization.

We urge all the Latin American and Caribbean delegations present here to go before this UN forum and formally present the principled position of Latin America and the Caribbean on the inalienable right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence.

Solidarity

We have received valuable and steadfast solidarity from many of the members of the Nonaligned movement in our fight for independence. To them we express once



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Aug. 30, 1986, demonstration in San Juan, Puerto Rico, demands freedom for activists arrested by FBI year before in massive raid on island. PSP leader Olga Santamaría urged Nonaligned meeting to champion rights of independence fighters jailed in United States.

again our acknowledgement and appreciation as always.

On the other hand, we must frankly and fraternally point out that a number of members of our movement have not acted according to the anticolonialist principles and declarations approved by this organization with respect to Puerto Rico.

The fact that Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States in no way justifies the timidity and ambivalence of some of the countries present here concerning defense of the right of self-determination and independence of the Puerto Rican people, in conformity with UN Resolution 1514 (XV), known as the Magna Carta of Decolonization.

In the UN Committee on Decolonization, there are members of the Nonaligned movement that repeatedly abstain or do not vote on resolutions that recognize the right to self-determination and independence of the Puerto Rican people and the applicability to Puerto Rico of Resolution 1514 (XV) of the UN General Assembly. This was the case again last year with the resolution that was adopted, one submitted by Venezuela and cosponsored by Cuba.

To abstain or not vote on the resolution on Puerto Rico is, in practice, to make common cause with the colonial power and to deny the fundamental principle of the right to self-determination and independence of the Puerto Rican people.

Change abstentionist policy

We call on these member countries of the Nonaligned movement to correct their abstentionist policy on the issue of colonialism in Puerto Rico. We urge the Latin American members of the movement to play a more active role in advancing our cause — which is the cause of Latin America and the Caribbean — in international forums, especially in the UN Committee on Decolonization, and by bringing up the case of Puerto Rico in the UN General Assembly, taking into account also the recent decision by COPPAL.

Puerto Rico is a part of Latin America and the Caribbean that is occupied and kept under U.S. colonial domination as the result of an act of violence — the military invasion of 1898. Its right to self-determination and independence has to become a Latin American and Caribbean cause the way Namibia is an African cause. And just as Puerto Rico must be a cause of Africa, Namibia must be a cause of Latin America.

The community of nations of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Nonaligned must also be concerned about Puerto Rican political prisoners who, because they are imprisoned in the United States, are doubly victims of persecution and repression. At the same time as we demand that the international community support our right to self-determination, our people and our patriotic fighters are exercising that sacred and inalienable right.

There are more than 15 Puerto Rican patriots in the United States sentenced to hundreds of years in prison. With dignity and pride they stand up to the worst prison conditions. Meanwhile, a U.S. court in Connecticut intends to try another 15 Puerto Rican independence fighters who were arrested, kidnapped, and extradited to the United States in an invasion of Puerto Rico by 300 U.S. police agents on Aug. 30, 1985, and again on May 21, 1986. At this meeting we have circulated among you personal testimony prepared by a number of these political prisoners.

These prisoners have been denied their rights — such as the right to be tried in their own country by a jury of their peers. They have been denied the unconditional right to bail guaranteed by the colonial constitution of Puerto Rico. For 10 months they have been denied the right to practice their religion. Their [Washington's] aim is to make the selfless, century-long struggle of our people for freedom and national independence a crime.

This is happening in the United States, which parades itself as a defender of human rights, but has more than 1,850 prisoners on death row for common crimes — to be executed by hanging, firing squad, gas chamber, electric chair, or lethal injection. Where 49 percent of those sentenced to death are Black and Latino. Where more than 600,000 people are confined in prisons and penitentiaries of all sorts.

We urge this special meeting on Latin America and the Caribbean to express its concern for the Puerto Rican patriots jailed in the United States, following the example of the heads of state at the eighth summit conference [of the Nonaligned movement] held only months ago in Harare [Zimbabwe].

We are convinced and hopeful that both continents, Africa and Latin America, will speak out and act in a united way to end colonialism in Namibia and Puerto Rico and that the entire international community will join them.

The Puerto Rican Socialist Party was admitted to the Movement of Nonaligned Countries as an observer member at a 1972 meeting of the Nonaligned in this same hospitable city of Georgetown.

From its inception the movement recognized the necessity to eradicate colonialism, racism, and apartheid. On repeated occasions it has declared its recognition of the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of the Puerto Rican people in accord with Resolution 1514 (XV) of the UN General Assembly and the resolutions of the Committee on Decolonization of that great international forum.

Therefore we hope that this special Ministerial Meeting — which is being held a few years before the 500th anniversary of the so-called discovery of America, 500 years of slavery and colonialism for Puerto

Continued on Page 12



South African police arrest demonstrator at rally in Namibia, August 1978. Namibia, like Puerto Rico, is a colony. Santamaría stressed that "the international community must pay the greatest attention to both countries."

Embassy set up in English-speaking Caribbean

"Notes from Nicaragua" is a column prepared by Cindy Jaquith, Roberto Kopec, and Harvey McArthur of the *Militant's* bureau in Managua.

For the first time, Nicaragua has an ambassador to the countries of

NOTES FROM NICARAGUA

the English-speaking Caribbean.

Thomas Gordon, a native of the Atlantic Coast city of Bluefields, is the new ambassador based in Barbados.

The embassy there will help open new commercial and cultural relations between Caribbean nations and Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, whose Black and Indian population has historically had close links with other Caribbean peoples.

The government also announced the appointment of Francisco Campbell to the new post of ambassador to Zimbabwe. David McFields, who until now had been the ambassador to southern African countries, will continue representing Nicaragua in Mozambique.

Like Gordon, Campbell and McFields are originally from the Atlantic Coast.

In another appointment, longtime Sandinista leader Olga Avilés was named Nicaraguan am-

bassador to Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea.

Thousands of young workers in Managua turned out February 20 for a march and rally sponsored by the Sandinista Youth (JS-19).

At the rally the Sandinista Youth regional committee presented a resolution outlining tasks for young workers in confronting Nicaragua's severe economic problems, which are greatly exacerbated by the U.S.-backed mercenary war.

The resolution focused on increasing production to alleviate shortages and on strengthening government control of distribution, to guarantee that essential goods are made available to working people at affordable prices.

The youth also called on the government and union movement to discuss a revision of wage scales, with the aim of providing greater incentives for exceeding production quotas, and to encourage skilled workers to remain in factory jobs.

The resolution stated that for their part, workers must meet production quotas and see that their products go to workers and peasants at the lowest possible price.

The Sandinista Youth said they would meet with peasants, farm cooperatives, and state farms to encourage them to sell food through government channels, not to private merchants.

Eighty peasants, members of



Militant/Harvey McArthur
Members of peasant brigade who volunteered to pick coffee in area still threatened by U.S.-armed contras.

the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG), volunteered for a special brigade to pick coffee in this year's harvest.

The first UNAG brigade of its kind, the peasants picked coffee in north-central Nicaragua, in war zones only recently secured by the Sandinista army. They received a week of intensive military training and had several army officers coordinating their defense preparations. Each day, part of the brigade stood guard while the rest picked.

Brigade members — who had

been sharecroppers, tenant farmers, or farm workers before the Sandinista revolution — told the *Militant* why they were participating. "It was through the revolution and the Sandinista Front that we received land," said Teodoro Flores. "This makes us feel stronger. We have a great determination to defend the revolution and strengthen the economy of our country."

"Today we have land," Napoleón Rayo Orozco explained. "What we harvest belongs to us. We can raise food for our families."

"Today we have freedom," added another peasant. "Now we are organized, in UNAG. Before, it was dangerous just to speak up for your rights."

Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, the Argentine human rights activist, praised Nicaragua's accomplishments in the field of democratic rights at a February 28 news conference in Managua.

Esquivel visited Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, where a project of regional autonomy is being developed by the government and the area's Indian, Black, and Spanish-speaking population.

"We noted great advances in bringing peace to the region," said Esquivel. He praised the spirit of cooperation between the government and the different peoples of the Coast, including groups that until recently had clashed militarily with the Sandinistas.

While noting there is no such thing as an "ideal" jail, Esquivel also praised the treatment given prisoners at the Tipitapa prison near Managua, which he visited.

But he criticized the human rights situations in Guatemala and Honduras, which he had also recently visited. People are still "disappeared" in Guatemala, he said, while in Honduras, thousands of peasant families have been ousted by the U.S.-supported contras from their farms near the Nicaraguan border.

Contra saboteurs bomb electrical tower in Managua

Continued from front page

guan government accused Washington of "direct responsibility" for the bombing. The letter noted that C-4 explosives were used, detonated with an M-60 waterproof time fuse manufactured in the United States.

"These type of actions," read the Nicaraguan protest, "coincide with the statements by several members of the U.S. administration to the effect that new attacks are being prepared against the people and the government of Nicaragua." The letter added that "terrorist acts of this nature pro-

vide overwhelming evidence of the degree of moral decay and the military failures" of the *contra* mercenaries financed by the U.S. government. "Faced with their continuing defeats, they mercilessly attack the civilian population," the letter said.

The bombing of the tower spurred Domitila Lugo community leaders to reorganize the neighborhood's nighttime security patrols, called "revolutionary vigilance." These are organized by the Sandinista Defense Committees (CDSs) to guard against contra terrorist or sabotage attacks and other criminal activity.

Domitila Lugo residents and CDS leaders told the *Militant* that revolutionary vigilance had been neglected in the neighborhood for several months — some said a year or more — to the point of being nonexistent. This allowed the *contra* saboteurs to plant their bombs without being observed.

On the evening following the explosion, about 40 block coordinators; most of them women, met with leaders of the local CDS at the neighborhood schoolhouse to discuss reactivating vigilance. The discussion continued the next day at a general neighborhood assembly attended by over 60 people, and later in meetings held block by block.

By week's end, revolutionary vigilance had picked up considerably, according to one CDS leader. "Seventy-eight residents participated in the vigilance last night," she

said. "It's only a beginning, but we're making progress."

At a March 21 press conference Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said that actions like the bombing of the tower "are set up by the CIA, they come from outside" the country.

He referred to a report in the March 19 *New York Times* that the CIA had given the contras detailed information — including blueprints — on bridges, dams, electric generating plants, and other strategic targets inside the country with the aim of launching an April-March "Spring offensive" against Nicaragua.

Ortega rejected the idea that the contras had established an internal front in Nicaragua. "These are outside acts that we will be facing for days to come, even months. That is why revolutionary vigilance is so important," he said.

Do you know someone who reads Spanish? Pan-African film festival

"We Africans are fighting to save our culture," said Philippe Sawadogo, general secretary of the Organizing Committee for the Pan-African Film Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) in Burkina Faso. This 10th festival celebrated African culture and discussed the need for more films inspired by the realities of the African peoples.

Participants represented more than 40 African countries and liberation movements. Filmmakers also came from the Philippines, Peru, the United States, France, South Korea, Argentina, Cuba, and other countries. More than 300,000 people were estimated to have taken part in the week's events.

The April issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* features an on-the-scene report on FESPACO. It also covers the latest developments in the fight against FBI spying.

Perspectiva Mundial is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every month brings you the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed in the U.S. and around the world.

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Huge U.S. troop maneuvers set

BY HARRY RING

The Pentagon has announced plans for its most massive military maneuvers yet in the Central American and Caribbean. Slated for May, the operation will involve a total of 50,000 air, sea, and land forces.

Military officers said the maneuvers will coincide with a projected "spring offensive" by the U.S.-sponsored *contras*, who have suffered crippling blows from Nicaraguan troops.

Such U.S. maneuvers have often been used in the past to cover arms shipments to the contras, and to step up pressure on Sandinista forces while the contras attempt to infiltrate Nicaraguan territory.

Officials claim that the maneuvers are intended to prepare U.S. forces to respond to a Honduran plea for support against a military attack by Nicaragua. Nicaragua has never attacked Honduras. But Washington has several times pressured the Honduran government to claim such attacks, as a pretext for U.S. military intervention against Nicaragua.

According to a March 22 *New York Times* account, the operation, dubbed "Solid Shield," includes a practice withdrawal of forces from Guantánamo, the U.S. naval base in Cuba. Established while Cuba was an unofficial U.S. colony, the

base has been retained despite Cuban protests over the illegal presence.

Previous U.S. maneuvers in the Caribbean have included massive landings at Guantánamo.

Solid Shield will also include special operations on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques. Despite angry protests from the people of Vieques, the U.S. Navy has used the island since World War II for military maneuvers. Since the 1970s it has been used for target practice by navy gunners using live shells.

Solid Shield will include forces from the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and even the Coast Guard. The purpose is to test their capacity to operate together in a big maneuver.

In Honduras, 5,000 U.S. ground troops will be deployed, the biggest number since the current round of U.S. maneuvers there began in 1983.

Flanked by coast guard cutters, navy warships, with an aircraft carrier as the centerpiece, will conduct sea maneuvers.

There will also be a landing of 3,000 helicopter assault troops and an amphibious detachment of 1,800 Marines in Honduras.

Planes will be dispatched to provide air cover for the operation.

How Pentagon cops spy on factory workers

Continued from front page

version"; any "conduct of a reckless nature"; any "mental condition"; "the presence of a close relative, friend or associate in a nation whose interests may be inimical to the interests of the United States"; "financial difficulties"; "refusal by the applicant, without satisfactory explanation, to answer questions before a congressional committee"; "use of intoxicants"; or "drug addiction."

The information comes from snooping by the DIS, by employers' private eyes, by cops, by the FBI, and by other federal political police.

If your plant has Pentagon contracts — and you participate actively in union meetings or have marched to oppose racist violence or have protested the *contra* war against Nicaragua or voiced support for abortion rights — there is a good chance your name is in the computer.

If you have attended meetings of socialist, antiwar, or antinuclear groups — even if it was a decade ago — or if you subscribed to left-wing publications, or if someone in your family has done these things, there is a good chance you rate as a security risk.

Sally Goodman case

Sally Goodman is a case in point.

Goodman was hired in 1980 by the Martin Marietta corporation in Denver. One of three women hired as electricians at the plant, she had to obtain a security clearance in June 1981 as part of her job.

Goodman soon became the subject of a DIS investigation, one of the hundreds of thousands that take place each year. She was a union activist who helped organize support for the 1981 air traffic controllers' and miners' strikes. She was a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the National Organization for Women.

Goodman supported the socialist campaign of Eileen Thournir, a coworker at Martin Marietta, who ran for U.S. Congress.

The aim of the DIS was to put an end to this "subversive activity" by intimidating Goodman directly, isolating her from the union and her coworkers, and eventually getting her fired or forcing her to quit. What happened to her would then serve as a warning to her coworkers, and to the union as a whole — to drop any idea of speaking out against the policies of the government and employers.

Goodman's 'crime'

The DIS began investigating Goodman in January 1982, but she did not learn about this until that fall, when she was called off the job to talk to two DIS agents. They informed her that she was under investigation because of allegations that she was a member of the Young Socialist Al-

liance, at least an associate of known members of the Socialist Workers Party, and a lesbian. None of these things is illegal, but the DIS, like the FBI and other government spy agencies, does not consider itself bound by legality.

"I told them I wanted a union steward present," Goodman said of that first meeting. "After they repeatedly refused, they let me go." The DIS went on to check all Goodman's job and personal references on her application — in hopes of cooking up a discrepancy that the company could use to fire her.

They interrogated Goodman again, asking questions such as: "Can you describe the general types of individuals with whom you have participated in homosexual acts and whether or not these relationships were of a lasting nature or were they numerous transient liaisons through chance meetings?"

"Have you traveled outside the United States?"

Goodman, backed by the Political Rights Defense Fund, began to fight back. Her union, United Auto Workers Local 766, filed two grievances on her behalf. These were denied because the company claimed to have nothing to do with the investigation. The local continued, however, to openly back Goodman's right to her job.

Rallies and picket lines were organized. Resolutions were adopted by unions and

other organizations.

In November 1984 the DIS investigation concluded. "We have not proved that subject has established a sympathetic association with any person who advocates the use of force or violence to overthrow the government by unconstitutional means," conceded the report of one DIS agent.

He continued, "It is recognized that this case is very controversial and because SUBJECT'S case has been highly publicized and SHE is represented by THE ACLU maybe this case should be forwarded" to another branch of the Defense Department.

At the top echelons of the DIS, a decision was made to suspend Goodman's security clearance anyway in April 1985. The move came while Goodman was in the hospital on medical leave.

The Political Rights Defense Fund stepped up its campaign in defense of Goodman and the democratic rights of all unionists. More support was won for her case, and her union reaffirmed its opposition to the campaign of harassment.

Despite the loss of her security clearance, Goodman was able to return to her job. The DIS had been pushed back.

Some are not so lucky. Sometimes workers are forced to look for another job when the DIS denies a security clearance. Others are suddenly asked to file new clearance forms after having spent many

years on the job. They may never hear about the clearance application, but following the DIS investigation, they may suddenly be fired on trumped-up charges of being late too often or falsifying an application they filed years before.

DIS snoops pushed back

The decision last August by Judge Griesa that government spying against the SWP could not be justified by "national security interests" has dealt an important blow to the DIS snoops.

Now the government spies have launched a counterattack aimed at ripping the heart out of the court decision. They claim the right to use the FBI's ill-gotten files against the SWP or anyone else they designate as actually, possibly, or potentially subversive.

The whole union movement has a big stake in the outcome of this fight. Unionists need the right to discuss and think through what to do about takebacks, war, attacks on Black rights, and other anti-worker policies. The unions' right to discuss, decide, and organize free of government or company spying is vital at a time when more battles are opening up against the employers' drive to attack our wages, working conditions, and union rights.

And those rights are at the heart of the battle over the FBI files.

Denver unionists, activists rally for suit

BY MARY SUSAN IMO

DENVER — "I pledge solidarity with the Political Rights Defense Fund and all others fighting repression," declared Pam Lujan, a member of International Brother-

hood of Electrical Workers Local 2300 and the Denver-area P-9 Support Group.

She was addressing the Rally for Democratic Rights held here March 7. About 50 people attended the rally, which was spon-

sored by Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF).

The rally was publicized as a way to learn about the important court victory won when a federal judge ruled that government spying against the Socialist Workers Party is unconstitutional.

The rally was co-chaired by Marilyn Ferrari, second vice-president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 2-477, and by Sara Gates, a member of OCAW Local 2-477 and the Socialist Workers Party.

Ferrari stated, "We have seen so few victories lately that we have to call this one a celebration. Just as an injury to one is an injury to all, a victory for one is a victory for all."

A statement from Don Smith, codirector of the Denver Justice and Peace Committee, noted, "At a time when it has never been more clear as to who has least respect for the law, when the president of the United States is guilty of criminal and impeachable offenses, it is ironic that progressives in this country and revolutionaries in the liberated countries in the Third World are depicted as a threat to democracy."

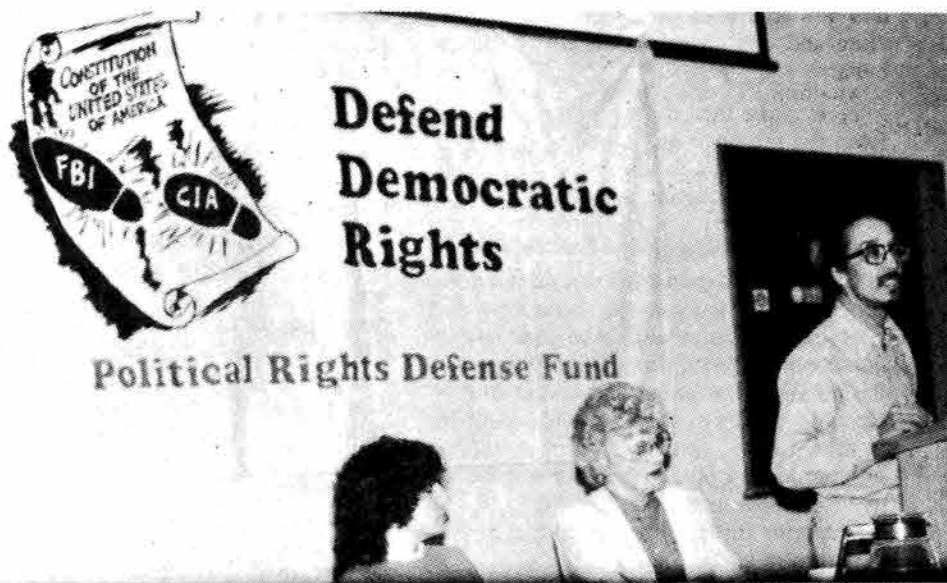
Another speaker, Kiko Martínez, is still appealing a recent conviction, the latest round in a 14-year struggle against government frame-ups for his Chicano rights activities. The Alamosa, Colorado, farmer was a target of the FBI's Counterintelligence Program.

"We're not going to have democratic rights at all if we don't fight for them," Martínez said. "I feel it's important that we do have these forums, that we do speak out."

The recent revelations about FBI infiltration of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and the suspension of Colorado University students protesting CIA campus recruitment were taken up by Meg Ruby of the Boulder Peace Consortium. Her group's offices have been broken into three times during the past year.

Joe Swanson, Midwest field representative for the PRDF, urged all in attendance to become sponsors of the defense fund. Over half of the people at the rally signed endorser cards and more than \$250 was raised to help continue this important fight.

Other speakers included Bud Mekelburg, executive director, Colorado Coalition to Save Rural America; Larry Guerra, of the Mark Steven Guerra Committee; Nancy Jackson, legislative chair, Colorado National Organization for Women; and Wardell Montgomery of Poetic Justice.



Left to right, Pam Lujan of IBEW, Marilyn Ferrari of OCAW, and Kiko Martínez.

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Burkina revolution advances women's em

International Women's Day celebrated in West African country

BY ERNEST HARSCH

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — From all corners of the country, thousands of women came to the House of the People here March 8 to celebrate International Women's Day.

Some were barely in their teens. Others were grandmothers. Many came with babies strapped to their backs.

The celebration was organized by the Women's Union of Burkina (UFB), a countrywide group formed only a little more than a year ago. Many participants wore red-white-and-black head scarves with the initials "UFB."

The large turnout was an expression of the UFB's growing strength, not only here in the capital, but around the country. Many of the women were from rural villages and did not speak French, which is used mainly in the larger towns. They responded most readily to those who addressed them in Mooré, Jula, or Fulfuldé, three of Burkina's main indigenous languages.

"Burkina cannot build and strengthen itself without women," declared one banner strung across a wall of the auditorium. "Burkinabè women want to take a full part in the revolution and in society," proclaimed another.

It was by far the most militant and spir-

ited public meeting I attended during more than three weeks in this West African country.

Speakers were frequently interrupted by chants, applause, and fists pumping in the air. During the musical interludes by a popular band, some women got up to dance in the aisles, to much cheering and merriment.

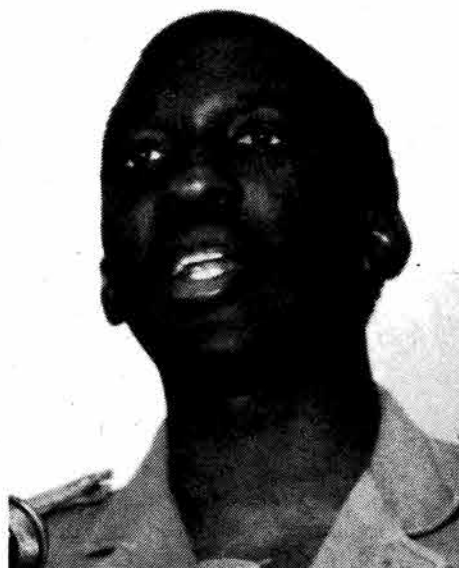
Women's stake in the revolution

Marceline Ouédraogo, a spokesperson for the UFB section of Kadiogo Province (the region around Ouagadougou), addressed the crowd. The governing National Council of the Revolution (CNR), she said, "has a clear policy and practice that gives us, the women of Burkina, a place in the forefront of our people's struggle."

The UFB, Ouédraogo continued, has made it possible to organize women to actively take part in the revolution in ever greater numbers. "Without the effective participation of women, there can be no genuine revolution," she concluded.

That was the same theme that ran through the main address given by Capt. Thomas Sankara, Burkina's president.

"The revolution has certainly contributed to an improvement in the lives of Burkinabè women," Sankara said. And efforts have been made to involve women in



Militant/Ernest Harsch
President Sankara addressing women's rally.

all the popular mobilizations of the past few years, such as the literacy and vaccination campaigns, the work of the mass-based Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs), the struggle against apartheid, and other activities.

Women have also been pushed forward into positions of responsibility, Sankara noted. There are five women cabinet ministers now, and even some newly trained women air force pilots.

But, Sankara stressed, "having some women as ministers doesn't by itself change the conditions of women."

Those day-to-day conditions are greatly determined by the economic and social backwardness of Burkina, which is one of the poorest countries in the world. The vast bulk of the population, which lives in the countryside, continues to suffer from pre-capitalist social and economic relations. And in the cities, there is some capitalist exploitation as well. In addition, Sankara emphasized, "Imperialist domination is exercised over the entire society."

Women thus have a direct stake in advancing Burkina's democratic revolution, Sankara said.

'The UFB is your combat organization'

Sankara noted that women have shown "competence and endurance in all spheres of activity," as demonstrated by the fact that they perform most of the labor in the rural areas. Yet, he continued, there remains "a great absence of women" in public and political life.

"What is needed," Sankara said, "is a

People's tribunals bring corrupt officials to justice

BY ERNEST HARSCH

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — When Gabriel Somé, Pierre Toé, and Idrissa Kadiaga began lining their pockets with millions of francs in public funds some years ago, they could never have imagined that one day they would be appearing in starring roles in this city's grand auditorium, the House of the People.

But there they were — along with several dozen other former administrators, officials, and civil servants — sitting on folding metal chairs on the auditorium's stage, facing a People's Revolutionary Tribunal (TPR).

They had an audience of hundreds: primary and high school students in their striped orange shirts, women, workers, soldiers, and even a few peasants who happened to be in the capital at the time. Thousands more followed the proceedings over the radio.

At the back of the stage was a painting of a fist holding a pair of scales, with the slogan, "For justice at the service of the people."

Under the incessant questioning of the tribunal members, the defendants had to account for dubious expenditures and the outright disappearance of funds.

Unaccustomed to such a public accounting, some muttered barely audible responses. A few wove elaborate tales to try to justify their actions.

The genies did it

According to Gabriel Somé, a former customs official accused of embezzling the equivalent of \$70,000, he gave the money to "genies of the Red Sea" who threatened his life. This brought hooting and laughter from the audience.

Chaired by Juliette Bonkougou — the first woman to head a TPR — the tribunal patiently picked apart Somé's tale. One tribunal member asked, "Didn't you loan the money to Rasmané [an accomplice] to start a joint business venture, perhaps?"

While still blaming his genies, Somé eventually acknowledged his responsibility for the diverted funds.

The tribunal, which generally hands down sentences after hearing all the cases in a given session, moved on to the case of Pierre Toé, a former director general of the national lottery. He was asked to account for the disappearance of more than \$35,000 and to explain why he had a villa built for his personal use with funds from the lottery budget. Idrissa Kadiaga, another lottery of-

ficial, tried to introduce a document of dubious origins to justify his own embezzling and was sharply rebuked by the tribunal.

Next came the case of a former prefect from the province of Comoé who was accused of imposing arbitrary fines on villagers and then pocketing the money.

'Justice of the oppressed and exploited'

Before the August 1983 revolution here, such crimes against the economy and people of Burkina would have gone largely unpunished. Corruption in high places was the norm. Government and administrative officials, military officers, police, political figures, tribal chiefs, and businessmen often used their positions to illegally enrich themselves. Sometimes they did so in collusion with foreign (mainly French) business interests.

But on Oct. 19, 1983 — just a little more than two months after the coming to power of the new National Council of the Revolution — President Thomas Sankara proclaimed the establishment of the People's Revolutionary Tribunals.

At the opening of the first session of the TPRs a few months later, Sankara declared, "The world of the exploiters, the plunderers, and all those who benefit from the neocolonial system is trembling because the [Burkinabè] people ... want to bring them to justice."

The members of the tribunals, he said, are to be chosen "from among the working people and by the working people alone, with the mission of carrying out the people's will."

"Justice under the democratic and popular revolution," Sankara continued, "will always be that of the oppressed and exploited, against yesterday's neocolonial justice of the oppressors and exploiters."

Each tribunal, which is set up when necessary, is composed of seven members appointed by the Council of Ministers. One must be a magistrate (who chairs the tribunal). One must be a soldier or police officer. And five are drawn from the mass-based Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs) that exist in every workplace, school, and village.

The tribunals have the power to question defendants and other witnesses and to examine all relevant evidence. They can impose fines and/or prison sentences. There are no appeals, except pleas for presidential pardons, which are sometimes

granted. Initially, defendants could not have legal counsel, although in a few recent cases the right to counsel has been conceded.

The TPRs have the task, above all, of trying crimes of corruption or crimes against state security.

Since their formation they have heard hundreds of cases, involving former presidents and prime ministers, merchants, gold smugglers, policemen, and officials from a wide range of state enterprises and institutions. The TPRs have recovered more than \$10 million in stolen funds.

Last year, the West African Economic Community (CEAO), a regional body, authorized Burkina's TPRs to try three former CEAO officials who had embezzled \$18 million.

Although this and most other celebrated trials have been held here in the capital, TPRs have also heard cases in Bobo-Dioulasso, Pô, Tenkodogo, Ouahigouya, and other provincial towns.

Educational role

The TPRs do not just prosecute crimes. They also have an educational side.

A billboard outside the main gate to the House of the People proclaims, "TPR: revolutionary instrument of popular justice and education."

By law, all sessions of a TPR must be public, and people are encouraged to attend. In some of the more significant cases, the proceedings have even been broadcast live over the radio.

Through the TPR sessions, the people of Burkina have learned a lot about how the previous regimes and the wealthy layers they represented used to run the country.

The TPRs themselves handle only major cases, of national significance or involving large amounts of money.

At the local level there are the People's Conciliation Tribunals (TPCs), which seek to bring together conflicting parties in domestic and community disputes. Their members are elected at general popular assemblies.

Cases that cannot be decided by the TPCs, or that involve greater amounts of money, are taken to the People's Departmental Tribunals. The judgments of these courts can be appealed to the People's Appeals Tribunals, which function at the provincial level.

In February another new body, the People's Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, was set up. Any official can be

called before the commission to answer questions about his or her financial status and conduct. President Sankara was the first to appear before it and publicly declared all his assets (which were modest).

A statement by the National Council of the Revolution called on activists to bring any known case of illegal enrichment to the attention of local CDRs. It said that the new commission was set up to fight "the gangrene of corruption, a weapon used by the imperialists and bourgeoisie to destroy from within revolutionary experiences wherever they develop."

Prison reform

BY ERNEST HARSCH

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — Scrawled in chalk on the inside of a prison wall here is the comment of one A.Z. Boubacar: "Before, I was mistreated. But now, thanks to the CNR, I'm a new person." Another prisoner had scribbled next to it, "Long live Sankara."

The CNR, as everyone here in Burkina refers to it, is the governing National Council of the Revolution, chaired by Capt. Thomas Sankara, who has been president since the beginning of the Burkinabè revolution in August 1983.

Just as the revolution is shaking up many



At main prison in Ouagadougou, inmates c

ncipation

strategy that permits our revolution to liberate the capacities of everyone."

To do that, he went on, men must be educated to view women as equal partners. "Must women of a new kind live with men of the old kind?" he asked, to applause and laughter.

Above all, women must take the initiative and step forward, "they must be the main actors in their own struggle. . . . The only real emancipation of women is that which makes them responsible participants in society."

The formation of the UFB is a great advance for all Burkinabè women, Sankara declared, precisely because it enables them to take on new responsibilities and authority.

"Comrade militants," Sankara emphasized toward the end of his address, "the Women's Union of Burkina is your combat organization." He urged them to use it effectively.

Severe oppression

The challenge facing the revolution in Burkina is great.

Traditionally, women have been segregated from men in most social activities, and political life was long considered an exclusively male preserve. Illiteracy among women reaches 98 percent (compared to the overall illiteracy rate of about 90 percent).

A woman's workday often stretches for 18 hours or more. It is the woman who must care for the children, go to the market, and fetch water. In the rural areas, it is common to see women walking with huge water jugs or other loads balanced on their heads. They also do much backbreaking work in the fields.

Many men treat women as little more than "baby machines," as activists in the UFB often term it.

Although outlawed for some time now, forced marriage still exists in some parts of the countryside. Female circumcision, a dangerous and mutilating practice, also



Women's contingent at 1985 celebrations of second anniversary of Burkinabè revolution

Militant/Pat Hunt

persists, despite public campaigns to discourage it.

'A war for women's emancipation'

Since the CNR came to power in August 1983, there have been some improvements. These have been modest, however, given Burkina's overall poverty.

Along with the entire population, women have benefited from the expansion of health care, such as the construction of 7,000 new primary health posts, one in every village. Some women are taking part in the literacy campaign that is now getting off the ground.

Increased government assistance to agriculture has made life a little easier for peasant women, providing them with new tools, wells, and mills — traditionally, most women had to mill grain by hand.

According to Joséphine Ouédraogo, the minister of family affairs and national solidarity, plans are under way to begin setting up day nurseries for children between

the ages of three and six.

A Family Code is being drafted and will be presented to the public for discussion. The Family Code, Ouédraogo said in an interview late last year, will standardize marriage laws. It will also "give women a say in making certain household decisions such as management of the household income and in the case of divorce, the disposition of the children."

Since the social position and economic status of women are so closely intertwined, the government's new five-year economic development plan is including projects that will enable women to earn an income, whether through market gardening, artisanship, cattle raising, or some other activity. "For each woman, an income," is one of the slogans.

As a number of speakers at the International Women's Day celebrations pointed out, perhaps the greatest advance women have made so far is to take their first steps toward political organization and activism.

Through the UFB, the Committees for

the Defense of the Revolution, and other organizations, women were involved in the discussions that formulated the five-year economic plan. They are undergoing military training for militia duties. They are speaking out on a wide variety of issues.

An editorial on International Women's Day on the front page of the Ouagadougou daily *Sidwaya* commented, "Today, like yesterday, freedom is not given, but conquered."

"It is clear," the editorial continued, "that without women nothing major or lasting can be accomplished. Women, whether they are in the office, the factory, or the home, must fight to win their portion of freedom and dignity. . . . And in a country like ours, where the vast majority of women live in the countryside, occupied with domestic chores; in a country where women make up the big majority of illiterates, it's no exaggeration to say that what is needed is a genuine war for women's emancipation."

n Burkina Faso: literacy, job skills, political education

other aspects of this society, its impact is being felt within the prison walls themselves.

The previous regimes simply locked up prisoners and forgot about them, Sambo Antoine Komy, the secretary of state for justice, noted in a March 7 speech. He was addressing a rally to launch an "open house" at this city's central prison, the Arrest and Correction House of Ouagadougou (MACO).

Before the revolution, medical care for prisoners was minimal, there were few opportunities for sports and other physical activities, and those who entered jail without any job skills or the ability to read or write

came out the same way.

But "this view of prisoners as lost people isn't just," Komy went on. "We must help reintegrate them into society."

"The CNR," he continued, "believes that all Burkinabè have a role to play in the country. Those inside MACO are an integral part of the people. So they have a right and a duty to participate in all the activities we are undertaking to transform our society."

Improved conditions

The changes in conditions for MACO's inmates are visible. Along one side of the main courtyard stand a new medical clinic

— built just last year — three buildings for religious worship, and a school with two classrooms. Nearby is a workshop for teaching welding, sewing, and other crafts. A soccer field has been laid out in the center of the courtyard.

Overcrowding has been greatly reduced. Before the revolution, some 1,400 prisoners were packed into MACO, or about 30 per cell. Now there are less than 450, with about 12 per cell. Some were moved to different prisons, while others had their sentences reduced or were granted parole.

Last year, in a campaign called "Liberated Justice," the country's judges, lawyers, and other legal officials were mobilized to clear up the outrageous backlog of cases — some detainees had been waiting up to 15 years to be brought to trial. Within just a few weeks most of the cases were heard, about 1,500 of them.

'Social reintegration'

The central goal of the CNR's prisons policy is "social reintegration," to make it possible for those found guilty of criminal infractions to be able to find socially useful employment once they complete their sentences.

"Here in Burkina Faso," commented Frédéric Bassolet, an official in the prison administration, "the prisoner is one who suffers from a political or social illness. We must emphasize this, so that he can quickly return to society."

The educational and training programs within prison are geared toward that end. Besides metalworking and tanning, MACO teaches prisoners a variety of ag-

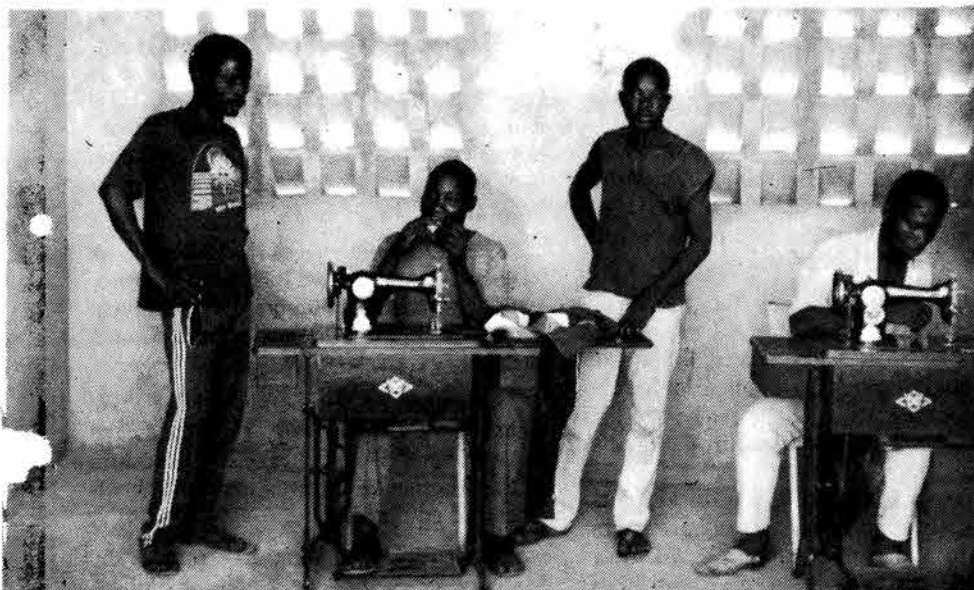
ricultural skills. Most prisons now have vegetable gardens and poultry pens, where the prisoners raise much of their own food.

Among other classes, the prison school teaches basic literacy, so that previously illiterate prisoners can learn how to read and write in their own national languages. They are also taught some French, the language of government and administration. Many prisoners speak only Mooré, Jula, or one of the other indigenous African languages.

This was evident at a forum held at the Palace of Justice as part of the weeklong "open house" for the MACO prisoners. After one Justice Ministry official gave a talk — in French — on Burkina's new system of revolutionary tribunals, he opened the floor to discussion. At first, only the prisoners who felt comfortable in French asked questions or made comments. But then the rest protested. They demanded simultaneous translation between French and Mooré, so that they too could participate. They won their demand.

Political discussion and education is also encouraged among prisoners. This involves not only the aims of the Burkinabè revolution, but also struggles in other countries. Interest in southern Africa was evident in one of the prison classrooms, where someone had written on a wall, "Glory to Samora Machel," the Mozambican president killed in October 1986, and "Free South Africa." The prison volleyball team has the name "Nelson Mandela" stenciled on their team uniforms.

"Ideological and political discussions," Bassolet stressed, "can speed up the improvement of the prisoner."



Militant photos by Ernest Harsch

in learn skills such as welding and sewing.

Howard Beach victim sues cops

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — Cedric Sandiford, who was beaten unconscious in the Howard Beach lynch attack and then abused by cops, has filed a \$25-million damage suit against the city administration and police department.

Meanwhile officials said they are investigating brutality charges in the beating of a Black Brooklyn family by a dozen cops.

In the Howard Beach suit, the complaint by Sandiford charged the cops had failed to protect him from "a hostile, all-white mob."

The racist assault had begun when Sandiford, his stepson Michael Griffith and a friend, Timothy Grimes, walked into a pizzeria in all-white Howard Beach after a car they were in broke down nearby.

Someone called the cops, advising them that "suspicious" Blacks were in the restaurant. A patrol car was quickly dispatched. But, the cops were to later claim, seeing there was no problem, they left.

Sandiford and Grimes insist the cops saw a racist gang assembling but left anyway. The three Black men fled the gang. Grimes escaped without serious injury. Sandiford was clubbed to the ground. Griffith was pursued onto a highway where he was killed by a car.

Recovering consciousness, Sandiford made his way to the same highway, where a patrol car picked him up, bringing him to where his stepson lay dead.

As Sandiford, still bleeding from head wounds, tried to explain what had happened, a cop shoved him against a patrol car, forced him to assume a spread-eagle position and searched him.

He was held at the scene several hours, his wounds untreated. Cops questioned him about a shooting that had occurred in the area earlier.

Sandiford's attorney, Alton Maddox, said he expected similar claims to be filed on behalf of Timothy Grimes and the family of Michael Griffith.

As a result of a public outcry, 12 face trial for the racist attack, three of them charged with murder.

In the Brooklyn cop attack on the Black family, the victims told their story at a press conference at the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church. Herbert Daughtry, pastor, demanded that the cops involved be suspended, and the precinct captain as well.

Daughtry said that the fact that the two cops who apparently set off the March 9 attack were Black "does not negate the prem-

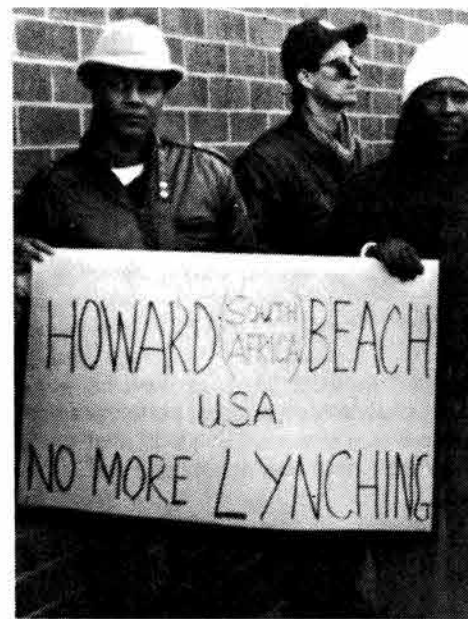
ise that racism permeates the New York Police Department."

Brenda Gilyard told reporters she was returning home when a cop in a parked patrol car barked at her to get into the house.

When she asked what the problem was, the cops got out, arrested her and dragged her, handcuffed, to the car. Gilyard is pregnant.

When her family came out of the house to protest, her mother and a brother were also arrested. Meanwhile, more cops arrived. Eight members of the family, including a nine-year-old, were beaten with nightsticks and fists. Four were treated at a nearby hospital.

Police said their information on the case was "sketchy." Eight days after the attack, investigators had not yet questioned the cops involved.



Militant/Mike Lux
Survivor of lynch attack is demanding \$25 million from city, cops.

Jailed Israeli wins broad support

BY MALIK MIAH

Michel Warschawski, director of the Alternative Information Centre in West Jerusalem, continues to be detained by the Israeli police.

Warschawski was arrested, along with three other workers at the center, on February 16. They were charged for "rendering services" to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an outlawed organization in Israel. The three others arrested have since been released.

Warschawski is the first Israeli Jew to be

arrested under the Prevention of Terror Ordinance of 1948. The law states: "The police commander is authorized to order in writing the closing of any premises serving a terrorist organization or its members, either continuously or occasionally, whether it is a place of activity, meetings, propaganda or storage."

The police closed the center for six months and confiscated all the printing and reproducing materials. The library and all publications on the premises were also seized.

The center publishes a widely circulated democratic rights journal, *News From Within*. The English-language biweekly publication has subscribers all over the world. The paper was not banned by the government, and its staff recently published a new issue.

Much of the center's information is provided by released Palestinian political prisoners and their families. Many of these Palestinians are still viewed as potential "terrorists" by the Israeli government. All Palestinian liberation organizations are labeled "terrorist."

Warschawski's arrest has led to protests in Israel. Major newspapers reported the closing of the center and the detention of Warschawski, who is also a leader of the Revolutionary Communist League, the section of the Fourth International in Israel.

One reporter wrote, "What is sure in this case, is that democracy is the loser."

The Association for Citizens' Rights in Israel issued a protest.

International protests include a telegram by Noam Chomsky, a prominent professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He said: "The closing of the offices of *News From Within* and the detention of its members is an outrageous attack on the right of freedom of expression. I would like to join with those who are protesting this latest instance of repression and denial of fundamental human rights."

Columnist Alexander Cockburn pointed to the Warschawski detention as an example of the Israeli government's arrogance. In a column in the March 19 *Wall Street Journal*, Cockburn wrote, "In the time-scarred argot of repression, an Israeli policeman has claimed that secretly, Mr. Warschawski and the others were planning to use the office to provide the left with instruments for advancing its objective . . . In Israel it has caused some alarm, since the emergency laws have often been used against Israeli Arabs but not, until now, against Israeli Jews. Thus Mr. Warschawski's persecution is seen as a harbinger of a more general crackdown."

In Canada, at the March 13-15 federal convention of the New Democratic Party (that country's labor party), a cross-section of labor leaders signed a telegram of protest. Signers included Ken Georgetti, president of the British Columbia Federation of Labour; Bob White, president of the Canadian Auto Workers; and Tom McGrath, national vice-president of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway and Transport Workers.

Several members of parliament in Mexico, Denmark, and Italy have sent protests. So have a number of prominent people in France, Ireland, Austria, and Britain.

Supporters of democratic and human rights in the United States should demand the release of Warschawski and the return of the Alternative Information Centre's offices and equipment.

Protest telegrams should be sent to the Ministry of Justice or Chief of Police, Jerusalem, Israel. Copies should be sent to the Israeli Consulate, 800 2nd Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

Talk on Nicaragua's land reform, autonomy

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — More than 240 people turned out here for a March 21 forum on "The Nicaraguan Revolution Today."

They heard an eyewitness report from Cindy Jaquith, director of the Nicaragua Bureau of the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Among those in attendance were members of such solidarity organizations as Casa Nicaragua and Ventana. The forum was held during a regional Active Workers Conference sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, drawing participants from throughout the Northeast.

"Washington's *contras* have been strategically defeated in Nicaragua," Jaquith said. "The political costs of U.S. troops invading Nicaragua becomes higher as the Sandinistas continue to push the mercenaries back. In fact, it is harder for Washington to invade today than at any time during the six-year war."

Nonetheless, the fighting in Nicaragua remains heavy, she said. Last month there were 542 clashes between Sandinista troops and the *contras*. In the course of the whole war, some 20,000 Nicaraguans have been killed, 18,000 kidnapped or wounded, and 10,000 orphaned.

"And not a single person in Congress — not a single liberal or 'radical' — is standing up and saying 'Stop this immoral war! End the aid to the *contras*! Leave Nicaragua alone!'", Jaquith pointed out.

Today in Nicaragua, she continued, there is a lively discussion about relations on the land — who should own it and how farm production should be organized. Since 1979, 100,000 peasant families have received land from the revolutionary government and an additional 60,000 families still want it. This year the government will distribute land to 16,000 families.

Another key question of government policy is the Atlantic Coast, Jaquith said. "Nicaragua is setting a decisive example of the revolutionary approach to overcoming the barriers of racial, cultural, and language differences," she said.

Through the autonomy project on the Atlantic Coast, she explained, the languages and cultures of Nicaraguans who are Indian or Black are being promoted. Many Miskito Indians who initially took up arms against the Sandinistas have returned to participate in the project.

"The Atlantic Coast was where the U.S. government thought it had the best chance

to establish a provisional counterrevolutionary government," she pointed out. "But far from breaking away, the Atlantic Coast is drawing closer to the rest of Nicaragua, and the rest of Nicaragua is drawing closer to the coast."

Through the Atlantic Coast, the Nicaraguan revolution is also reaching out to the English-speaking Caribbean.

The revolution is also deepening its ties to Cuba, which has begun supplying the coast with milk and clothing. Jaquith pointed to the historic significance of this, noting that it was from the Atlantic Coast in 1961 that Washington launched its Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

Jaquith strongly encouraged everyone to visit Nicaragua for themselves, even if they have been there once before.

She concluded by urging everyone to build the April 25 march on Washington, D.C., "to make this the biggest demonstration ever for Nicaragua's right to live in peace."



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Cindy Jaquith: through Atlantic Coast autonomy project, Nicaraguan revolution is reaching out to Caribbean, rest of world.

Hearing postponed in disruption suit

BY JOHN STUDER

LOS ANGELES — A new date has been set for the federal court hearing on a motion that \$101,000 in attorney's fees be immediately awarded to the Socialist Workers Party. The hearing will now take place here April 20.

The \$101,000 would pay part of the expenses the SWP incurred in defending itself from a disruption lawsuit.

The suit was filed by Alan Gelfand, a lawyer for the county of Los Angeles. He penetrated the SWP in 1976 as part of a disruption operation against the party by the Workers League (WL), a small U.S. sect, and the British Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP). (See story in March 27 *Militant*.)

Gelfand was expelled from the SWP in 1979 after he filed a brief in federal court charging that the party was an FBI front and its leaders were government agents. He then sued the SWP, asking the court to allow him extensive access to the party's records, to remove the party's elected leadership, and to reinstate him to membership.

The socialists fought to have the case thrown out of court. They pointed out that for a court to tell a political organization who its members and leaders may be vio-

lates the constitutional right of freedom of association. But the judge refused.

When the case came to trial in 1983, Gelfand was unable to present a single shred of evidence for his scurrilous charge that SWP leaders are government agents. Judge Mariana Pfaelzer told him, "You have not proved anything . . . I can only assume that there was a motive somewhere in here to paralyze the Socialist Workers Party."

However, Pfaelzer has never ruled on the case or on an SWP motion that Gelfand and his lawyers pay back the hundreds of thousands of dollars the socialists had to spend to defend themselves.

David Epstein, attorney for the SWP, has now filed a motion for the immediate payment of \$101,000. A hearing on the motion was originally scheduled for March 23. It was postponed at the request of the insurance company representing Gelfand's lawyers.

The postponement offers political rights activists an opportunity to organize more people to attend the hearing. It will now take place April 20 at 10 a.m., Room 15 of the Federal Courthouse, 312 N. Spring St., Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 380-9460.

Life in a Philippine fishing village

BY SAM MANUEL

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — There are 150 families living in the fishing village of Camalan. Two other socialist journalists and I spoke with members of the Federation of Small Fishermen in Negros (FESFIN). The federation was founded in 1984.

The families here live off the once abundant fish and oysters. A good day's catch could bring as much as 100 pesos — the equivalent of \$5. But, they explained, "We only get a good catch about twice a month." In addition to the fish and oysters, they also sell a deceptively potent drink called *tuba*, made of the sap drawn from the leaves of coconut trees.

Some of the families have lived here for nearly 200 years. But they do not own the land. In order to live on it, they are forced to pay rent. The rent is based on the number of coconut trees growing on their plot. It is paid at the rate of two pesos per tree per month.

The families explained that life is harder for them than for their grandparents. There is no permanent work due to the severe depletion of the sea life.

In 1975 the Marcos dictatorship opened the area up to large capitalist fishing companies. Several Japanese and Filipino companies were given contracts to fish in the area, using sophisticated trawlers. Areas were set aside for the exclusive use of the small fishermen, but these boundaries were

never respected. Boats belonging to small fishermen have been destroyed by the trawlers. Recently two children were killed.

The capitalists also employ a method known as "dynamite fishing." Explosives are set off under water. The stunned fish then float to the top to be gathered. This indiscriminate method has greatly reduced the pool from which new crops of fish could be spawned. Dynamite fishing is illegal, but the government has done nothing about it. One woman pointed out that one of the trawler owners is the chief of police here.

When asked how they had benefited from founding the federation, a woman responded, "Unity. Because of the unity we are stronger and can survive."

"We are also able to educate ourselves about our situation and that of the country," she added.

In discussing the recent vote on the constitution, another woman said that she had voted no. She explained that "many of the provisions in the constitution were not for the people."

One man who voted yes explained, "I voted yes so that we could have elections. With the elections the corrupt politicians could be replaced. Maybe some people from the mass organizations could be elected." He continued, "A no vote would have meant no elections."

Still another explained, "I voted yes, but I am waiting to see what will happen."



Family in Bagasay fishing village in Negros

Militant/Deb Shnookal

Philippine sugar-mill workers try to organize representative union

BY SAM MANUEL

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The Victorias Sugar Mill is said to be the largest in the world. It employs 5,000 workers, 3,000 of whom are seasonal. We were given a tour of the mill by the company's director of public relations.

Having worked as a repair mechanic at a U.S. sugar mill, I was familiar with the production process. The technology was similar, but crews were much smaller. There was only one operator in the centrifuge area, where machines separate sugar from molasses by spinning the mix-

ture at high speed. Where I worked, there had been a crew of four.

The company man boasted that workers received free housing and utilities, and that the company provided free health care for workers and their families and free education for their children. The workers supposedly controlled a majority of shares in the company, I was told. And yes, they were represented by a union. But the public relations man could not remember how much employees were paid.

Afterwards I spoke with a mill worker who belongs to the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW). It turned out that the workers at Victorias are saddled with a company union affiliated to the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), which collaborates closely with the capitalists and the landlords.

Recently the NFSW challenged the TUCP union. During the certification drive, the company suspended all workers suspected of supporting the NFSW, thus disqualifying them from voting. The company threatened that the plant would shut down if the NFSW won. Supporters of the NFSW could not openly campaign because every worker must take a loyalty pledge to the TUCP.

The worker told me that the minimum wage is about 38 pesos (\$1.90) a day. A Class A tradesman would receive about \$2.40 a day. The labor ministry has established a minimum wage of about \$2.80 a day, but nobody here is paid that much. Women, most of them seasonal workers, get \$1.00 a day.

The company "provides" for education by deducting the equivalent of \$17.50 annually from each workers' income for each of their children. While a company plan covers minimal routine medical expenses, the cost of medicine and severe illnesses is deducted from wages.

The worker we spoke to lives in a company compound along with 2,500 others. They are provided with a 20 by 30 foot plot which is shared by two families. Each family is given enough material to construct a two-room dwelling on this space.

Each family receives a utility quota allowance. Any utility costs above the quota are deducted from wages.

Workers who live away from the compound receive a \$5.00 a month living allowance. Most however choose to live on the compound because they are provided with transportation to work. When a worker retires, quits, or is fired, the family must leave the compound.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Protests in Spain hit U.S. base presence

Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched on Spain's Torrejón Air Force Base March 15 to protest the presence there of some 5,000 U.S. troops and 72 U.S. F-16 jet fighters. Such actions have been held at the base annually for the past seven years, but this was the largest demonstration so far.

The march came just hours before the arrival of U.S. Secretary of Defense

Nir, and Uzi Sharvatz were members of a right-wing terrorist group called the Jewish Underground. They were convicted of a 1983 grenade and machine-gun attack on Arab students at the Islamic College in the West Bank. Three students were killed and many wounded.

Two of the three terrorists were also convicted of car bombing attacks that crippled three West Bank mayors. Livni, Nir, and Sharvatz were likewise convicted of rocket attacks on buses carrying Palestinians and of a plot to blow up the Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's holiest shrines, in Jerusalem.

With such reduced terms, the three prisoners could become eligible for parole within 13 years. In the meantime, they will be allowed approved visits home.

Of 25 Israelis convicted a year and a half ago in a series of terrorist attacks against Palestinians, only six are still in jail.

Brazilian troops used against strikes

Following strikes and threatened strikes at most of Brazil's ports and oil refineries, President José Sarney sent army troops to occupy them March 10 and 11. The troops were backed by armored carriers and tanks.

Ozires Silva, president of the state oil company, Petrobras, claimed the troops were necessary to prevent a disruption of the country's fuel supplies.

In the wake of a maritime workers' strike, the Oil Workers Union had initiated work slowdowns and sit-ins in some refineries when Petrobras rejected the workers' wage demands.

Chilean prisoners tell of police torture

Twenty-five Chilean political prisoners have revealed in recent court statements that they were tortured until they signed confessions. The 25 are being held on charges of arms smuggling and an attempted assassination of Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

In court documents filed by their lawyers, several of the prisoners described torture experiences that included being beaten for weeks about the face, ears, chest, and genitals. Others said they were subjected to mock executions and threats that family members would be arrested, raped, or tortured.

On February 25, a dozen of the prisoners began a hunger strike, and several others later joined in. They are protesting the fact that their cases are being heard by a military court.



Caspar Weinberger

Caspar Weinberger, who was visiting the country for official talks on the U.S. bases.

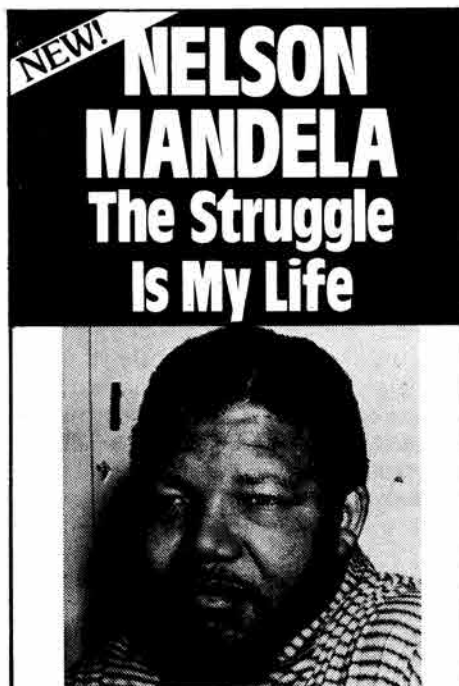
The Socialist Party government of Prime Minister Felipe González has been calling for a "substantial reduction" in the U.S. base presence in Spain, primarily at the Torrejón facility, which has the longest runway in western Europe.

Just before he left following the inconclusive talks, Weinberger, in a public news conference, strongly defended the U.S. presence at Torrejón. While acknowledging "some differences" with the Spanish government on this question, he expressed a hope that a "satisfactory agreement" would be reached.

Sentences commuted for Israeli terrorists

Three Israelis convicted of murdering Palestinians will have their life sentences reduced to 25-year prison terms, a spokesperson of President Chaim Herzog announced March 17.

The three, Menachem Livni, Shaul



"The struggle is my life," wrote Nelson Mandela in a letter from the underground in June 1961. "I will continue fighting for freedom until the end of my days."

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CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Film: Portrait of Teresa. Tells the story of working women of Cuba. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

Chile Today: An Eyewitness Report Back. Speakers: Tamar Rosenfeld, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 3808 E 14th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 261-3014.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Imperialism and Revolution in the Middle East. Speaker: Barry Sheppard, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party; toured Israel in November 1986. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

IOWA

Des Moines

Pathfinder Books Grand Opening. Build April 25 mobilization for justice and peace in Central America and Southern Africa. Speakers: activists from the Black, antiwar, anti-apartheid, and labor movements. Sat., March 28. Open house, 1-5; dinner, 5:30; rally, 7:30. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: dinner, \$3. For more information call (515) 246-1695. 20% off all titles on opening day.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Which Way Forward: Bethlehem Steelworkers Speak Out. Daniel "Butch" Allen, production worker in Tin Mill, Sparrows Point, member United Steelworkers of America Local 2609; Joe Kleidon, maintenance worker at Tin Mill, member USWA 2609 and Socialist Workers Party; Francis Brown, financial secretary of Baltimore A. Philip Randolph Institute (AFL-CIO), member of USWA Local 2610 Sparrows Point; Rodney Orange, member USWA Local 2610, board member of Baltimore National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Sat., March 28. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

Say No to the U.S. War in Nicaragua. An eyewitness account. Speakers: two Baltimore residents just returned from a three-week tour of Nicaragua. Sat., April 4. Dinner, 6 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Rally to Defend the Bill of Rights Against Government and Employer Attacks. Speakers: Carol Doherty, director, Coalition for Choice; Joe Swanson, Political Rights Defense Fund; Annette Diaz, Boston Committee for Puerto Rican Civil Rights; James Barrett, president, United Steelworkers of America Local 8751 (Boston school bus drivers). Sat., March 28. Reception, 7:30 p.m.; rally, 8 p.m. 107 Brighton Ave., 2nd floor. Sponsor: PRDF. For more information call (617) 787-0275.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Stop U.S. intervention in Central America! Detroit Area March and Rally. Sun., March 29. Assemble 1 p.m. at New Federal Bldg. (Michi-

gan and Cass); rally 2 p.m. at Kennedy Square. Sponsor: March 29th Coalition. For more information call (313) 965-5724.

Open House, With Showing of Slides from Nicaragua. Sun., March 29, after demonstration against U.S. intervention in Central America, 3 p.m. 2135 Woodward Ave. Refreshments served. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Autonomy for Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. Speaker: Bill Means, executive director of the International Indian Treaty Council, recently returned from Nicaragua. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

What Way Forward for Meat-packers in the Fight Against Employer Offensive. Speakers: John Dillon, member New Jersey P-9 Support Committee; others. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

Behind the Struggle Against Repression in El Salvador Today. Speakers: Mary Ellen Donnelly, member Monmouth County Pax Cristi who attended In Search for Peace conference in San Salvador last year; representative of student delegation to University of El Salvador in January; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 4, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Albany

The Nicaraguan Revolution: An Eyewitness

PSP leader's address to the Nonaligned

Continued from Page 5

Rico — marks a new stage in reaffirming the unity and sovereignty of our peoples in the search for common solutions to our as yet unfulfilled aspirations, one of which is

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Report. Speakers: Dan McNett, member National Association of Letter Carriers, participated in 1985 and 1986 construction brigades; Tammy Saunders, Young Socialist Alliance, attended NICA school in Nicaragua last February. Fri., April 3, 7:30 p.m. 114E Quail St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

What Way Forward for Meat-packers in the Fight Against Employer Offensive. Speaker: Mike Shur, Socialist Workers Party, member of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 431, active in P-9 solidarity work. Translation to Spanish. Fri., March 27. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Eyewitness: El Salvador Today. Slideshow and discussion. Speakers: Don Gurewitz, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201; Kathy Andrade, education director, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

OHIO

Cincinnati

The Continuing Struggle for Philippine Independence. Slideshow and discussion. Speaker: Aida Jordan, co-coordinator of Ohio Coalition for Philippine Concerns. Sun., March 29, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

independence for Puerto Rico.

We hope that our movement will carry out its principles so that colonialism is eradicated sooner rather than later — wherever it remains and regardless of the power and threats of the colonial rulers.

Solidarity with Nicaragua, Cuba

The people of Puerto Rico with their unshakeable desire for independence, have and will continue to have a spirit of international solidarity. Thus at this meeting we send our strongest greetings to the sovereign people of Nicaragua and state that we will firmly repudiate threats and aggression against Nicaragua launched from our country.

To the Cuban people and their government goes our strongest recognition of their consistent solidarity with our cause and their resolute example of anti-imperialist struggle.

To the Salvadoran people and patriots, we express our active solidarity and hope that they will triumph over the forces of reaction to establish a democratic, just, peaceful, and progressive society. To the rest of the Latin American peoples, especially the people of Chile, we express our greatest friendship and support on the eve of their certain victory against the fascist regime and their return to democratic life.

We also especially extend our solidarity

WEST VIRGINIA

Elkins

U.S. Constitution — Relevance of First Amendment to Contemporary Political Issues. A debate. Speakers: William Stanmyer, director of Lincoln Center for Legal Studies, Arlington, Virginia; Doug Jenness, coeditor, *Militant* newspaper. Moderators: professors Turner and De-Rosa. Thurs., April 9, 7 p.m. Davis and Elkins College Chapel. For more information call (304) 636-1900.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Support the Farm Workers in Yakima Valley. Speaker: Tomás Villanueva, president of United Farm Workers of Washington State. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Iran-Contragate and the U.S. Government Crisis. Speaker: Fred Halstead, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 3, 7:30 p.m. Husky Union Bldg., room 204MN, University of Washington. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance and SWP. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

From Montgomery to Selma. Speaker: Fred Halstead. Sat., April 4, 4 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: YSA and SWP. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Nicaragua: Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Ellie Brady, Socialist Workers Party, just returned from coffee brigade; others. Sat., March 28, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

to the patriots and people of Guatemala in their fight to force the elected government to live up to its promises, and to find real solutions to the serious problems of that country.

We express our deep gratitude to the people of Tanzania, a firm supporter of our proposals to the UN Committee on Decolonization. We likewise extend solidarity to the people of South Africa and Namibia and to the peoples of the Frontline States.

We express our condolences to the people and government of Mozambique for the death of their president and revolutionary leader, the beloved Samora Machel.

We extend greetings of solidarity to the fraternal peoples of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, to the Palestinian people and their only legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and to the fraternal people of Vietnam.

Our presence in Guyana has helped us cement bonds of friendship with the fraternal peoples of Latin America, joining in the hope for a completely sovereign Latin America.

So finally, and very specially, a warm and grateful greeting to the people and government of Guyana, faithful champions of nonalignment and gracious hosts of this important meeting of our movement.

Thank you very much.

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WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Suggestion — Justifying the \$185 fee to be levied on undocumented immigrants seeking amnesty, Immigration Commissioner Alan Nelson said, "It is a proper example of 'user fees,' an



Harry Ring

approach in which taxpayers do not pay the cost of benefits to a special group." Okay, then how about letting employers, who

pocket big profits from immigrant labor, pay the fee?

Progress report — According to the *New York Times*, Madison Avenue is dropping flag-waving ads. The paper says the trend, intended "to stay in tune with the nation's moods," began last year but picked up steam with the Wall Street scandals and contragate.

Pro — "Even if it only grows fuzz, people are going to buy it. Some is always better than none." — A hair stylist's estimate of the FDA-favored antibaldness drug.

Con — "It might work on dormant hair cells. But they got to prove to me that it works on dead

cells — that they can raise Lazarus from the dead." — A hair-care products exec.

Skeptical — "The big question in the industry is whether it will produce cosmetically acceptable hair. Can it be permed and colored?" — Another hair stylist.

Our position — If it can grow hair on a billiard ball we might try it.

And if so, why — New York Blue Cross refuses to reimburse Alfred White, 79, for hospital expenses incurred last year. The insurance outfit says the records show he died the day he left the

hospital. They want written certification that he is alive.

A thirst quencher too — The Agriculture Dept. favors letting meat processors reduce fat content in sausages by adding more water. Simply reducing the fat, they argue, makes for a tough weiner. Current legal limit is 30 percent fat and 10 percent water. Under the new rule, if fat content is cut to 25 percent, water would go up to 15.

Guaranteed you'll see double — Tired of those dull, everyday specs? Try Optica's in New York or Beverly Hills. Hot items include a gold frame set with diamonds. \$3,000.

Definitely un-American — San Jose, California, landlords are challenging a rent law saying that financial hardship for a tenant is a criteria in weighing a rent-hike request. The Supreme Court was warned that if this is permitted to stand, "It follows that the price for any essential goods and services can be based on the financial needs of individual customers."

Thought for the week — "It's unfortunate because it would be much better for us if it looked like there was a high degree of unanimity among those who are professional leaders." — House Republican leader Robert Michel on Arturo Cruz' exit from the *contras*.

Bankers, government target Minnesota farmers

BY JIM ALTENBERG

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Programs recently established in Minnesota aimed at easing the massive crisis facing working farmers have come under sharp attack from bankers, federal farm loan agencies, and Democratic and Republican politicians here.

The main target is the state's mediation law, passed last year in the wake of continued farm foreclosures and farmers' protests. Under mediation, a lender is required to meet with the farmer and a state-sponsored mediator to try to work out an agreement on the farmer's debts. No foreclosure proceedings can begin for six months. This has amounted to a temporary moratorium on foreclosures in this state. A similar law exists in Iowa.

The year 1986 saw no improvement for farmers. According to the League of Rural Voters, 30,000 Minnesota farmers are in danger of losing their land. Prices for farm products remain below farmers' production costs and are held down by U.S. government farm programs.

Land values continue to fall. In Minnesota farmland that sold for \$1,200 an acre in 1980 now goes for \$400. The value of Iowa farmland has fallen by more than 60 percent since 1981.

As a result, thousands of farmers have debts that exceed the value of the assets they have put up as collateral. Creditors are increasingly demanding payment in full, forcing thousands more into bankruptcy.

The state legislature is also discussing changes in the law to enable creditors to force farmers to pay the difference between the decreased value of assets and the money they owe. This would mean that even after foreclosure or bankruptcy, a farmer would still have huge debts to pay because the value of the land and machinery is now lower than the loans the farmer took to buy them.

Since last December the Minnesota farm group Groundswell has held a series of meetings to discuss its experience with mediation. On February 9, some 150 farmers filled a state senate hearing in St. Paul to press for changes that would strengthen

the mediation law. They also called for adequate funding for Minnesota farm advocates, who work with farmers on all sorts of problems, and for programs aimed at reducing the burden of interest owed by farmers on their debts.

Farmers pointed out that while in 1985 more than 5,000 Minnesota farms were lost, the number of foreclosures declined sharply in 1986. But more than 6,000 farmers entered mediation. Many of these farmers would otherwise have lost their farms to foreclosure. Groundswell has called for extending the six-month mediation period to a year, but the state legislature thus far has refused.

Many farmers have been pushed out before foreclosure. New bankruptcy laws make it easier for farmers to "voluntarily" give up. Farmers have also found that mediation has been used to pressure them into deeding their land back to the bank in hopes of avoiding foreclosure.

Lenders have also sought to seize control over every penny a farmer has, even wages earned off the farm.

While some of the mediators are farmers and farm activists, many more are untrained and are tied to agriculture department-run county extension offices. At mediation meetings, creditors often do not show up, or say nothing until the meeting ends. The federal Farmers Home Administration does not recognize mediation at all.

Groundswell is seeking to impose penalties for such "bad faith" mediation. They also want to ensure that farm families have money to live on during mediation.

New attacks on the mediation law have now begun. The federal Farm Credit System, the country's largest agricultural lender, has filed suit to have the Minnesota law declared unconstitutional. Bankers have sought to blackmail farmers by threatening to stop making farm loans in the state if the law is not radically weakened or repealed.

Democratic state Sen. Charles Berg has introduced a new farm bill that would, among other things, raise the minimum amount of debt requiring mediation from \$5,000 to \$20,000.



Minnesota farm auction. Some 30,000 farmers in state are in danger of losing their farms.

10 AND 25 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 1, 1977

Fannie Lou Hamer died of cancer March 14. She was 60 years old.

Hamer emerged in the 1960s as a leader of the struggle for Black rights in the South. She continued to live in her hometown of Ruleville, Mississippi, until her death.

The granddaughter of a slave, Hamer entered the civil rights movement when she was 45 years old. Before that she had been a sharecropper all her life.

In the summer of 1962 Fannie Lou Hamer went to a meeting called to discuss voter registration. She volunteered to go try to register. Later she recalled what happened next:

"I went into the courthouse to register. Well, after I'd gotten back home, this man that I had worked for as a timekeeper and sharecropper for 18 years, he said that I would just have to leave."

After being ordered out of her home, Hamer became a field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. SNCC members were in the front lines of the battle against segregation, and most were much younger than her.

Hamer was jailed as a result of her civil rights work. On one occasion she was put into a cell with five male prisoners who were ordered to hold her down and beat her with a blackjack.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People
April 2, 1962 Price 10c

Premier Fidel Castro has launched an

all-out campaign to cleanse the Cuban revolution of whatever antidemocratic abuses may have crept in, and to nip a growing bureaucracy in the bud.

The Cuban leader fired the opening gun of this campaign, which is a major historic development in the Cuban revolution, on March 13 in his speech to the students at the University of Havana. On that occasion Castro denounced tampering with or falsifying the facts of history as cowardly and anti-Marxist, decried privilege, and called for a spirit of self-sacrifice by revolutionists.

The second gun of Castro's campaign was fired in a three-hour television speech March 26 about Cuba's new united party which is being organized by the Integrated Revolutionary Organizations.

The speech took the form of a withering exposure and denunciation of methods employed by Anibal Escalante, Communist Party leader, who had been entrusted with the key post in organizing the new party.

Escalante, Castro charged, had abused his position to build an island-wide "apparatus" of Communist Party appointees in key posts regardless of their abilities, merits, or the desires of the people in the units involved. This "apparatus" had been extended throughout all branches of government and had created a bottleneck where the smallest matters had to be passed on by Escalante. Citing names, dates, and places, Castro gave numerous instances of the resulting antidemocratic abuses and injustices.

While announcing Escalante's dismissal, he took the Cuban Communist Party to task for a shortsightedness and sectarianism which alienated workers and discredited the revolution. Bureaucratic and tyrannical methods and the falsification of history would not prevail in the new party or in Cuba, he vowed.

Guyanese leader, in New York, speaks on democratic rights fight

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

NEW YORK — The key political issue in Guyana today is the effort to win greater democratic liberties, said Eusi Kwayana, member of the Guyanese parliament. Kwayana, a representative of the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) and president of the Working People's Alliance, held a press conference here March 6.

"The U.S. ambassador in Georgetown has declared that under President [Hugh Desmond] Hoyte, the human rights position has improved. This view is shared by the State Department," said the Caribbean leader.

Hoyte has "made cosmetic changes," said Kwayana, but the truth is "there continues to be a lack of basic democracy."

Kwayana also highlighted the deteriorating standard of living of the people of Guyana. "Our infant mortality rate is the

highest in the Anglophone Caribbean," he declared.

Between 1978 and 1986, the earnings of public sector workers increased by 58 percent, whereas indirect taxes alone had increased by 175 percent.

The PCD is planning a series of marches across Guyana to demand democratic rights.

The coalition includes the People's Progressive Party, Working People's Alliance, Democratic Labour Movement, People's Democratic Movement, and National Democratic Front.

"The people in the U.S. who are fighting for the homeless, for peace, against U.S. intervention in Central America, and for some sanity in U.S. foreign policy on South Africa" are all potential allies in the fight for democratic rights in Guyana, Kwayana said.

INS caught in contradiction

The attempt by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to deport nine immigrants because of their pro-Palestinian views has stirred broad protest. The cop agency's efforts to intimidate or punish noncitizens who disagree with U.S. government policy are coming under fire. And top officials are feeling the heat.

In a letter to the March 18 *New York Times*, INS head Alan Nelson denied that the attack on the nine immigrants had anything to do with their opinions. "As INS commissioner, I can assure you that expressions of political belief have not been, are not now and will not be used by this agency as criteria for deportation."

The commissioner must have had his fingers crossed, because that's just the opposite of what Acting Assistant Commissioner Edwin Dornell declared in a sworn statement submitted March 6 to a federal court in New York City. Dornell was backing the government's demand for unfettered power to use illegally-obtained FBI files on the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and their supporters. The SWP and YSA are asking Judge Thomas Griesa to issue an injunction barring use of the files, based on the judge's decision that 40 years of government spying against the two groups has been totally illegal.

In his affidavit, Dornell told Judge Griesa that "the inability to receive information from the FBI regarding membership in the Socialist Workers Party . . . could adversely affect the ability of INS to make informed decisions about an individual's political views."

"Although membership in the Socialist Workers Party would not alone result in any change to one's immigration status, it is certainly a factor that would need to be examined in accordance with our statutory mandate. Failure to have the information could impact on our ability to properly determine an individual's proper immigration status."

Dornell's affidavit reveals the INS with its mask off — a political police agency targeting immigrants and other noncitizens because of their ideas.

The case of the pro-Palestinians provides a glimpse of the INS at work. The nine (eight Palestinians and one Kenyan) were charged with supporting the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Some or all of the nine pos-

sessed "certain magazines," such as *Palestine Focus*, *Democratic Palestine*, and the *Palestine Bulletin*.

For this "crime" they were rounded up at gunpoint early in the morning of January 26 and held in prison for three weeks until an immigration judge ordered them released February 17. They still face deportation proceedings.

The case of Margaret Randall is another example of the INS' "informed decisions about an individual's political views." Randall, who was born in the United States but lost her citizenship on technical grounds while living in Mexico in the 1950s, is the author of such books as *Women in Cuba* and *Sandino's Daughters*.

She was ordered deported last August 28 after an INS judge concluded that her writings "advocate the economic, international and governmental doctrines of world communism."

Another target of the INS is Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born worker who is a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

On April 11, 1979, the INS ordered Marroquín deported. The INS prosecuting attorney minced no words about the issue in the agency's view: "Marroquín has admitted from his own mouth that he is a Marxist . . . the U.S. does not grant asylum to those kinds of people."

Marroquín fought the deportation order, backed by the Political Rights Defense Fund. His right to remain in this country has won wide support from the labor movement and other supporters of democratic rights.

These cases indicate the scope of the issues at the heart of the fight over the FBI files on the SWP and YSA. The INS wants access to these files to aid its own spying efforts against immigrants and others whom the U.S. rulers would like to silence.

All those concerned with protecting the Bill of Rights — especially the labor movement — have a big task in joining this fight against the INS and other political police agencies. We urge all our readers to contact the Political Rights Defense Fund and become endorsers of its work, to help circulate literature to their friends, and to contribute what they can to the big legal costs of waging this battle. For more information, see page 7.

New victim of U.S. travel ban

A U.S. citizen has had his passport confiscated for traveling to Lebanon.

Brushing aside the constitutional right to travel, the State Department has arbitrarily declared it illegal to travel to Lebanon, Iran, and Libya. Heavy restrictions also bar most U.S. travel to Cuba.

The victim of the latest State Department action was M.T. Mehdi, leader of the National Council on Islamic Affairs and a longtime Palestinian-rights supporter. A native of Iraq, he is now a U.S. citizen.

Mehdi traveled to Libya last year and was not challenged. He then went to Lebanon twice, seeking to negotiate the release of hostages. U.S. Customs officials did not challenge him when he came back.

But subsequently, when Mehdi returned from a trip to London this February, he was questioned and searched

by customs. Officials went through his personal belongings, including his address book. He was then sent on.

Minutes later, waiting for the airport bus, he was approached by an unidentified man who brought him back inside. Officials then took away his passport. They said they did so to establish that he had violated the Lebanon travel ban.

But Mehdi has done nothing more than exercise his constitutional right to travel. It is the U.S. government that is violating rights in this case — the right of people in this country to visit any country in the world they choose.

Supporters of democratic rights should demand that the State Department stop its harassment of Mehdi and return his passport immediately. And we should demand the lifting of all Washington's travel bans, from Lebanon to Cuba, from Iran to Libya.

U.S. thwarted on anti-Cuba smear

Washington suffered a significant political defeat at the March 11 meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. A high-pressure U.S. campaign for adoption of a resolution smearing Cuba on human rights was thwarted.

Meeting in Geneva, the commission voted 19-18 to table the U.S. resolution, with six abstentions.

The resolution included the blatant lie that there are more than 15,000 political prisoners in Cuba. It called for their release and for free travel from the island. (This from a government that bars its citizens from traveling to Cuba!)

Responding to the charge, Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister Raúl Roa Kouri said there are less than 400 counterrevolutionaries in Cuban jails. And none of them are there because of their ideas. All were convicted for crimes they committed.

The March 24 *New York Times* described some of the extraordinary steps the Reagan administration took in its drive to ram through the resolution.

Eighteen counterrevolutionaries who were once jailed in Cuba were flown into Geneva for the meeting.

Heading the delegation was Armando Valladares. Billed worldwide as a poet jailed for his dissident ideas, Valladares had in fact been a member of the Cuban police force during the Batista dictatorship. He was jailed not for his ideas but for participating in a terrorist bomb plot.

Valladares, who has never even lived in the United States, was sworn in as a U.S. citizen so he could testify.

The campaign for the resolution marshaled forces from

the White House, State Department, and National Security Council.

Reagan sent personal notes to other heads of state.

State Department hatchetman Elliott Abrams leaned on various foreign ambassadors.

More than 400 cables were sent out. U.S. ambassadors in 42 nations went calling on foreign ministries.

"So intense was the pressure," the *Times* said, "that delegates from the developing world complained that the United States had threatened to halt deliveries of aid, such as wheat shipments . . . if they did not go along."

Despite that pressure, 19 nations voted to shunt aside the U.S. resolution.

Washington was particularly irked by the votes cast by Latin American governments.

The delegates from Mexico, Argentina, and Peru — which have taken various degrees of distance from Washington on international issues — voted against Washington.

But minutes before the vote, two governments whose support had been expected announced they, too, were voting to table the U.S. resolution. These were Colombia and Venezuela.

The setback for Washington reflected its growing isolation in Latin America, particularly its inability to get governments there to simply line up behind the U.S.-sponsored *contra* war in Nicaragua. And it demonstrated the continuing progress that has been made in tearing down the walls of isolation Washington has tried to impose on Cuba.

Karl Marx on the value of worker's labor power

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The installment I promised for this week in my series on women's wages had to be postponed when a virus knocked me flat for a few days. But to allow readers to continue pursuing the themes of my last two columns, we are printing an excerpt from the book *Cosmetics, Fash-*

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

ions, and the Exploitation of Women by Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed, with an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. The excerpt, by Waters, takes up how Karl Marx explained the value of workers' labor power.

* * *

In the first volume of *Capital*, Karl Marx explained the factors that determine the value of workers' labor power in the following terms:

"The value of labour-power is determined, as in the case of every other commodity, by the labour-time necessary for the production, and consequently also the reproduction, of this specific article. In so far as it has value, it represents no more than a definite quantity of the average social labour objectified in it. Labour-power exists only as a capacity of the living individual. Its production consequently presupposes his existence. Given the existence of the individual, the production of labour-power consists in his reproduction of himself or his maintenance. For his maintenance he requires a certain quantity of the means of subsistence. Therefore the labour-time necessary for the production of labour-power is the same as that necessary for the production of those means of subsistence; in other words, the value of labour-power is the value of the means of subsistence necessary for the maintenance of its owner.

"However, labour-power becomes a reality only by being expressed; it is activated only through labour. But in the course of this activity, i.e., labour, a definite quantity of human muscle, nerve, brain, etc. is expended, and these things have to be replaced. Since more is expended, more must be received. If the owner of labour-power works today, tomorrow he must again be able to repeat the same process in the same conditions as regards health and strength. His means of subsistence must therefore be sufficient to maintain him in his normal state as a working individual. His natural needs, such as food, clothing, fuel and housing vary according to the climatic and other physical peculiarities of his country. On the other hand, the number and extent of his so-called necessary requirements, as also the manner in which they are satisfied, are themselves products of history, and depend therefore to a great extent on the level of civilization attained by a country; in particular they depend on the conditions in which, and consequently on the habits and expectations with which, the class of free workers has been formed.

"In contrast, therefore, with the case of other commodities, the determination of the value of labour-power contains a historical and moral element. Nevertheless, in a given country at a given period, the average amount of the means of subsistence necessary for the worker is a known datum." (Karl Marx, *Capital* [New York: Random House, 1977], vol. 1, pp. 274-75.)

To this we can add the observation that the value of women's labor power under capitalism is invariably less than that of men. In the United States this is reflected in the fact that full-time female workers, taken as a whole, receive 59 cents for every dollar earned by full-time male workers. This inequality is part of the "historical and moral element" that Marx refers to in the determination of the value of labor power. It is due to the legacy of women's oppression throughout the history of class society, which is based on women's economic dependence on men. This dependence begins to break down as soon as women begin to be incorporated into the capitalist labor market. But eliminating the historic legacy and creating the social and economic conditions for real equality between men and women can only be accomplished through complete incorporation of women into economic production and the socialization of domestic work. These goals cannot be completely achieved short of the victorious working-class struggle to overturn capitalist property relations on a world scale.

* * *

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women is available from Pathfinder Press for \$4.95. Order from your nearest Pathfinder bookstore (see page 12) or write to Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please enclose 75 cents for postage and handling.

Philadelphia rail workers face sharp attacks

BY MICHAEL CARPER

PHILADELPHIA — A federal judge has put a temporary halt on a drug-testing program here in response to a complaint from the seven unions representing workers at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

UNION TALK

(SEPTA). The judge says the program is too extreme in its current form.

But he told SEPTA he will probably go along with their program of conducting random drug tests on rail and transit workers once it is modified.

SEPTA management's campaign around drug testing was turned up several notches after 42 people were injured when one train hit the rear end of another in the main downtown Philadelphia terminal in December. The company claims that a test after the accident turned up traces of drugs in the engineer's system.

After the United Transportation Union (UTU) Local 61 rejected SEPTA's contract offer in January, management arbitrarily implemented a drug-testing program.

Company, media, and government propaganda about drug testing has resulted in some rail workers believing that testing is in order. But few workers believe drugs are a significant cause of rail accidents.

The UTU files regular reports on railroad safety hazards. SEPTA ignores them and crew members are left to

cope as best they can. Coping is made more difficult by the lack of sleep and rest, which is a fact of life for SEPTA workers.

On a typical day, a crew member might report at 6:00 a.m. at an outlying yard and still be working at 7:00 that night.

In the middle of this 13-hour spread, a worker has a four or five hour "break" until they are needed again.

Your scheduled days off are frequently canceled. It's not uncommon to work with someone who hasn't had a rest day in several weeks.

Long hours and fatigue have always been a problem for rail workers. But since SEPTA took over for Conrail in 1983, conditions have gotten markedly worse.

Crew sizes have been reduced. Workers used to be able to "mark off" (take yourself off the work roster for a few days) without being victimized. That's virtually impossible now.

SEPTA is operated by the state of Pennsylvania.

A trainperson starts at \$6 an hour. UTU members took a 12 percent cut in 1979 and haven't had a raise since. Mileage allowances have been eliminated.

Attacks on work rules and rights on the job have been particularly harsh. The push on drug testing is the latest phase in the assault. Petty harassment is constant. This can range from blaming an engineer for a mechanical failure to disciplining a conductor for wearing the wrong color socks.

Company snitches ride the train to inform on crew members who miss collecting a fare or fail slightly in

conforming to the work rules.

Last July members of UTU Local 61 put forward contract demands that included a cost-of-living increase, wage parity for new hires, and an end to the so-called breaks of four or five hours.

But when union officials returned from the bargaining meetings in January, they proposed that we accept a five-year wage freeze, a five-tier wage structure for new hires, and no changes in work rules. The contract was rejected by a 4 to 1 margin. To date, there has been no word from SEPTA or the union negotiators on efforts to resolve the dispute.

While management is hollering about drug tests, an examination of the rail yard in Paoli, a Philadelphia suburb, has turned up what investigators call one of the highest concentrations of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) they've ever seen.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) found high levels of PCB's on lunch tables, in crew lockers, and at a pay phone. A report on the findings says SEPTA tried to prevent NIOSH investigators from testing workers for the effects of this deadly chemical, from testing their personal belongings, collecting air samples, or examining the inside of railcars.

Management says it is too expensive to clean up the PCBs.

Michael Carper is a conductor with SEPTA and member of UTU Local 61.

LETTERS

Soviet Union

Doug Jenness' column has been helpful, particularly the recent one about how Lenin's fight with Stalin and the bureaucracy is now being exposed to the Soviet people. But I believe the changes now occurring in the Soviet Union need to be addressed in a more general and programmatic way.

The position of the Socialist Workers Party for many years has been that the bureaucracy in the USSR cannot be replaced by a more democratic system without a revolution — that the bureaucracy will never yield power without force. What, then, are we to make of Gorbachev's reforms? Are they doomed to superficiality or failure, as were Khrushchev's?

Or is the historical SWP assessment in need of correction — perhaps now it is possible for a bureaucratic caste to be reformed without a revolution, provided the working masses are totally involved in the change. It may very well be too early to draw conclusions. But I, for one, would like to see the overall question addressed.

Albert Cassorla
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Don Rojas

As a *Militant* reader for over a decade, I am glad to see your publication continuing its valuable coverage of labor struggles and the anti-intervention movement. In its defense of Nicaragua and Cuba and support for the meat-packers of the Midwest, the *Militant* carries on a great tradition of the Marxist movement.

In other realms, though, I've got to question your shifting course. Why, for example, does the *Militant* make so much of Don Rojas and the new Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America? After the ignominious collapse of the Grenada revolution, shouldn't Rojas' credibility be reexamined? What lessons, if any, has he drawn from his friend Bishop's tragic overthrow and the greater tragedy of Grenada?

As for the Anti-Imperialist Organizations itself, I suspect that the *Militant* sees this Cuban-inspired project as the nucleus of the "new mass Leninist international" of Doug Jenness' visions. But haven't we seen this movie before? Doesn't anyone remember the Organization of Latin-American Solidarity (OLAS), much heralded in the late '60s as the core of a new international? Didn't

OLAS collapse like a wet sandcastle in a few years?

It seems like thinking people ought to be able to learn from such experiences. Until socialism wins out in some more developed country, Cuba remains geopolitically vulnerable, unlikely to do anything to jeopardize its ties with the USSR, whose foreign policy remains Stalinist, no matter what platitudes Gorbachev may utter about change.

The Fidelistas are geopolitical realists, and they are not about to create a revolutionary international no matter where their sympathies lie. Can you imagine Fidel telling Syrian revolutionaries to fight the Hafez al-Assad regime? He'd be cut off in a few days.

I wish Don Rojas luck with his new outfit too, but the nucleus of a Leninist international it is not.

Jorge Marquez Olmos
Annapolis Junction, Maryland

Grenada

I'm pleased to see the coverage given to Grenada in recent issues.

C.P.
London, England

Mordechai Vanunu

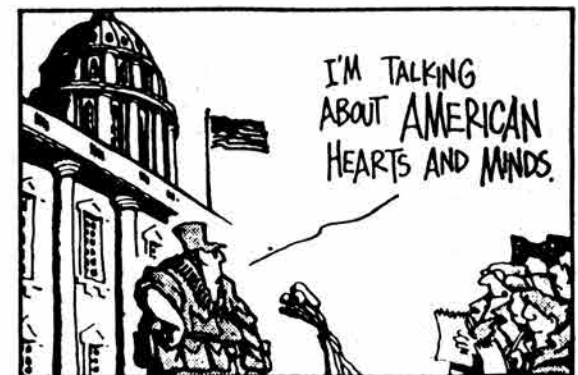
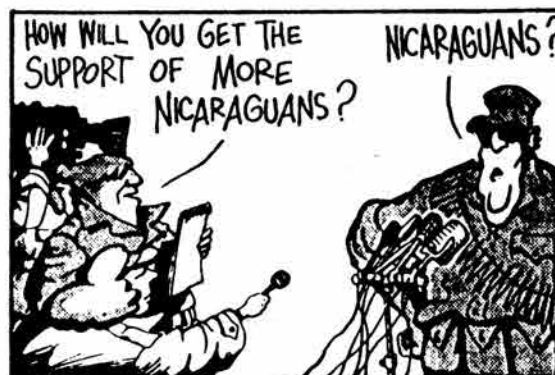
Your readers may be interested in the following: Mordechai Vanunu is a 34-year-old nuclear technician who had worked at Kirya le-Mehakar Gariny, the Negev Nuclear Research Center in Dimona, Israel.

He drew attention to Israel's nuclear capabilities with information that was published by the *Sunday Times* of London on Oct. 5, 1986. Fearing for his personal safety, Vanunu checked out of a London hotel, flew to Rome, and was illegally abducted and taken back to Israel against his will by Mossad agents.

Charged with espionage, treason, and the passing of secrets to an enemy at a time of war, which carry the maximum penalty of death, Vanunu is currently detained in solitary confinement awaiting the closed secret trial to reconvene in March 1987.

His actions have spurred the most serious discussion of nuclear weapons in Israel's history and the creation of the Israeli Committee for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

A petition was circulated that was signed by 75 Israelis, to which 100 more signatures were added after initial publication. Titled: "For Vanunu's civil rights. Against the Israeli nuclear threat," it read in part:



"We call on the peace forces in Israel to dissociate themselves from the incitement against Vanunu, to condemn the totalitarian practices of the Israeli government, and above all else, to mobilize against nuclear weapons in the country and the region as a whole — a situation which will bring a holocaust upon us all."

The New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone Committee has declared Vanunu an international prisoner of conscience. Support exists in countries such as Australia, Britain, and Japan. Awareness and support is needed to insure the upholding of democratic principles in Israel and the rest of the world.

Judy Zimmet
Mordechai Vanunu Legal Defense Fund
Somerville, Massachusetts

Violence in UAW

In a "Union Talk" column in the February 13 issue of the *Militant*, Jeff Powers and I described some of the violent attacks leveled against supporters of Jerry Tucker in United Auto Workers Region 5.

Tucker was narrowly defeated by Ken Worley in an election for Region 5 director last year. The Labor Department has filed a suit challenging "irregularities" in that balloting.

Last month the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* reported on another physical attack. Charles Swiney, an officer of UAW Local 25 at the GM Truck & Bus plant here in St. Louis, charged that Cecil Lawson and Bob Pendergrass, president

and vice-president of Local 25, and others verbally and physically assaulted him in a bar near the plant. Lawson and Pendergrass are Worley supporters.

All union members, especially those in the UAW, need to protest this undemocratic intimidation in Region 5.

Joe Allor
member UAW Local 110
St. Louis, Missouri

Strive to struggle

I am presently incarcerated at Rockview State prison in Pennsylvania.

I would like to know if I could receive your *Militant* paper. I need to know the truth about how these oppressors and their puppets are operating.

Strive to struggle!
A prisoner
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

Northwest Airlines

In the first round of a union representation election for the more than 14,000 workers at Northwest Airlines, the International Association of Machinists (IAM) garnered 43 percent of the vote; the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC), 37 percent; and the Air Line Employees Association, 19 percent.

A runoff election between the IAM and BRAC will be held within six to eight weeks, according to National Mediation Board spokesman Meredith Buel.

The NMB had ordered the election after the merger last fall of Northwest and Republic airlines. It was called to determine which union would represent ground service workers, ticket agents, and clerical personnel.

Eighty-five percent of those eligible to vote mailed in their ballots, well above the 50 percent needed to maintain a union at Northwest.

The IAM represents an additional 5,000 mechanics and cleaners at Northwest, so a win for that union would put nearly 20,000 workers — from the ticket counters to the hangars — in a single union.

Natasha Terlexis
Minneapolis, Minnesota

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Lynching case reopened in N.Y. Cover-up of racist slaying in Ozone Park unravels

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — City officials here have been prodded into reopening the case of a Black youth who was murdered by a lynch gang in 1981. Later, a key witness was also slain.

Michael Phillips was beaten and stabbed to death. Danny Basile, a participant in the attack who later identified the ringleaders to police, was also murdered. No one was prosecuted in either case.

The lynching occurred in Ozone Park, a community bordering on Howard Beach and covered by the same 106th Police Precinct. (It first became notorious as the "stun gun" precinct, where confessions were extracted with electric prods.)

Queens District Attorney John Santucci, whose attempted cover-up in the Howard Beach case forced appointment of a special prosecutor, also handled the officially unsolved 1981 case.

Reopening of the case was triggered by an exposé in the February 22 *New York Newsday*. Reporter Michael Arena drew together the facts of the case and the way it was swept under the rug.

The day after the article appeared, Mayor Edward Koch ordered a police review of the case, a gauge of the pressure generated by the outrage surrounding Howard Beach.

Following the mayor's lead, Santucci announced March 5 that he was reopening the case.

What are the facts?

On the night of May 23, 1981, Michael Phillips, 16, was sharing a bicycle ride home with a friend, Gerald Brown, a GI on leave from his base in Germany.

In Ozone Park, they stopped at an intersection for a red light.

Meanwhile, a gang of white hoodlums with a clubhouse on the block had been threatening patrons at a local bar and throwing things at passing motorists all evening. Cops at the 106th precinct were called but didn't respond.

Two cops were nearby, though, when Phillips and Brown appeared on their bike. The cops had parked their patrol car where they could observe traffic at the intersection.

As Phillips and Brown waited for the light to change, the racist gang suddenly descended on them.

Shouting epithets, they knocked the two Blacks off their bike and began beating and stabbing them.

Police refuse help

Brown, wounded in the kidney, managed to get away. He ran to the police car to get help for Phillips, who was prostrate.

A couple going by, both paramedics,

Jury selection begins in Goetz trial

NEW YORK — Jury selection began March 23 in the attempted-murder trial of Bernhard Goetz.

Goetz shot four Black youths on a New York subway train in December 1984. One is paralyzed for life.

He claims "self-defense," asserting the youths were about to rob him.

But when initially in police custody, he avowed that his intention was to "murder" them. That wasn't just talk. Goetz admitted that when he "saw no blood" on one of the youths, he said, "You seem to be alright, here's another," firing the shot that paralyzed him.

According to court records, Goetz told the cops, "If I was a little more under self-control . . . I would have put the barrel against his forehead and fired."

tried unsuccessfully to revive Phillips, who had been stabbed in the heart, back, and chest. It was too late.

Meanwhile, Brown was banging on the window of the patrol car. One cop, puffing on a pipe, lowered his window a crack and told him to "calm down."

Finally, with the wounded Brown running alongside, they steered the car toward the scene. They were determined, Brown's later testimony makes clear, not to get involved.

A witness to the events confirmed Brown's account. Asked by an investigator what the cops did, he replied, "Nothing. The injured boy who ran away was yelling, 'It's your fault! My friend is dead!' The police officer with a pipe told him to lie down and keep quiet."

The cops also claimed that their patrol car was parked two blocks from the scene and that they didn't see the attack.

Brown insists they were parked less than 150 feet away.

The police began an "investigation" of the slaying. They found some witnesses who later were unwilling or unable to testify. And they lifted prints off a parked car where some of the attackers had been partying.

The fingerprints were not processed for two years.

The investigation petered out.

Witness comes forward

In 1982, Detective Bernard Smith got a call at the 106th precinct. It was from



Militant/Mike Lux

Protests against lynching in Howard Beach forced officials to reopen similar case in nearby Ozone Park.

Danny Basile. He told the detective he could no longer remain silent.

He named two men, Charles Miceli and Salvatore Taddeo, as the actual killers of Michael Phillips.

Detective Smith kept Basile under wraps for about another year. He says he feared for Basile's safety and thought that by getting him into a drug rehabilitation program, he would make a more credible witness.

Meanwhile, Smith took the fingerprints that had been sitting in a file and had them processed. Two prints were identified as those of Miceli, placing him at the scene of the crime.

Murder charges were brought against the two men named by Basile.

The prosecutor and judge agreed that Basile would remain unnamed until he actually testified.

In a pretrial hearing, Detective Smith was the first witness. From the stand, he blurted out Basile's name.

Soon after, on the night of December 22, 1983, Basile was sitting in a parked car with three friends.

A car pulled alongside and two masked men got out. They riddled Basile with bullets and drove off.

For the judge, and Santucci, that ended the case. The indictments against Miceli and Taddeo were dropped.

Reporter Arena notes there was one indictment not dismissed.

When Gerald Brown recovered from his wound and reported back to his base in Germany, he was declared AWOL, sentenced to 30 days extra duty and 30 days restricted duty, and fined \$300.

Michael Phillips' mother, and Brown, have a civil suit pending against the city.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Santucci said the renewed investigation will involve "all aspects" of the killings of Phillips and Basile.

What they actually do will be determined by how much public heat is put on them.

Racist barricades torn down in New Orleans

BY JOHN LINDER

NEW ORLEANS — Barricades preventing Blacks from entering a predominantly white neighborhood were torn down here February 21 after two days of protests.

The barriers were put up to separate a Black New Orleans neighborhood from an adjoining Jefferson Parish neighborhood where mainly white, working-class families live.

Jefferson Parish officials claimed that they had installed the barricades to reduce crime, but few area residents — on either side — agreed.

"They don't want no colored people in Jefferson Parish, never did," said Nesha Bibbins. "This is their way of telling us."

Most white residents interviewed on TV said they too opposed the barriers. The barricades, which resemble roadside guardrails, blocked the only routes through a levee that divides the two neighborhoods. Many Black residents were forced to drive a mile out of their way to go to work, shop, or reach the nearest hospital.

Two days after the barricades were constructed, New Orleans Mayor Sidney Barthelemy sent a bulldozer to tear them down. While Black residents gathered around the bulldozer, Jefferson Parish Council Chairman Robert Evans vowed to replace the barricades.

The following day about 125 protesters marched through the neighborhood, vowing to make sure the barricades stayed down. Many of the marchers were elderly residents who used to catch crayfish where the white neighborhood now stands. "They never had barricades blocking us off before," said Perry Perkins, 64. "That's the reason why I'm walking. I think it's degrading, insulting, and I'm mad."

On February 23 officials from New Orleans and Jefferson Parish announced that the barricades would not be replaced. "He [Evans] had to back down on his promise



Blacks applaud as city workers tear down barricades around mainly white neighborhood.

to put the barricades back, based on the fact that there were a lot of people out in the streets," said Llewelyn Soniat, a resident of the Jefferson Parish neighborhood.

Jefferson Parish officials have not backed down from their efforts to whip up racism and blame Blacks for crime. At a news conference, Jefferson Parish Councilman Lloyd Giardina actually accused Mayor Barthelemy of "bringing out the racial overtones" by tearing down the barricades.

At a community meeting later that night, Black activists charged that Jefferson Parish officials were trying to whip up racist support in their campaigns for parish sheriff. Three of the candidates are Evans,

Giardina, and incumbent Harry Lee.

Lee gained national notoriety last November when he announced plans to stop and question all Blacks found in predominantly white neighborhoods. An angry outcry forced Lee to back down publicly, but many Jefferson Parish police reported being told to continue harassing Blacks.

Speakers at the meeting also complained that Blacks were being turned into scapegoats for crime.

Gail Scott, a representative of Concerned Citizens of Jefferson Parish, said that the funds being used to erect barricades and harass Blacks should be used instead to provide jobs.